

THE TIMES

No 64,030

TUESDAY MAY 28 1991

40p

British drug agent among 223 dead

Baggage bomb is blamed for Thai air crash

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

A BOMB hidden in the forward baggage hold of the Landa Air Boeing 767 was last night believed to have caused the crash in which 223 people, including at least one Briton, died in Thailand.

Parts of the aircraft, including the nose section, were scattered over a five-mile radius in a pattern suggesting an explosive break-up at height. A Thai police officer said that one wing of the jet fell 12 miles from the main crash site on Phu Khao Kiao Chan, or Nine-Level Mountain, about 120 miles northwest of Bangkok.

As Thai safety experts began examining the wreckage and the "black box" flight and voice recorders, it became clear that the pilot had no chance to issue any radio warning. Only seconds before he had told air traffic controllers on the ground that he was climbing to his cruise altitude of 31,000ft. Investigators will be looking for clues for one of



Landa: structural failure "virtually impossible"

four possible reasons for the mid-air explosion: a bomb; structural failure of the aircraft; a mid-air collision; or the shooting down of the plane from the ground.

The crash, late on Sunday night, prompted airlines and airports throughout the world to tighten security as fears spread that the slow return of confidence in air travel after the Gulf war could now take even longer. Widespread worries about terrorist attacks, especially in the United States, are estimated to have cost scheduled airlines \$3 billion (£1.74 billion) in lost revenue and led to the cancellation of 30,000 flights.

The Landa Air jet had stopped in Bangkok to take on fuel for the final leg of its journey from Hong Kong to Vienna. Of the 213 passengers, who were mainly tourists, 125 had boarded in Hong Kong and 88 had joined the flight in Bangkok. The other ten victims were crew members.

Bangkok airport has been criticised by international aviation groups and pilots in the past for its poor security. Officials insisted yesterday, however, that security was now too tight for anyone to have put a bomb on board.

They blamed stormy weather for the accident. Prabon Na Songkhla, the airline's manager in Bangkok, said, however, that at the time of the crash the weather was fine.

Nidi Landa, the former Formula One world champion who owns the independent Austrian airline, said yesterday that global attempts to tighten security in the wake of the Lockerbie bombing of a Pan-Am flight in December 1988 would deter terrorists and no intelligence warnings of likely attacks on aircraft had been made in recent months.

terday that structural or mechanical failure was virtually impossible. "As a pilot," he said, "I can only say that there are dangerous moments in flight. The danger moments are take-off and landing. Since the plane had reached its cruising height, it was in what should have been one of the most secure phases."

The 250-seat Boeing 767-300, one of 340 delivered to airlines throughout the world, had been in service for only 18 months. The aircraft was last week certified for long-distance flights across water.

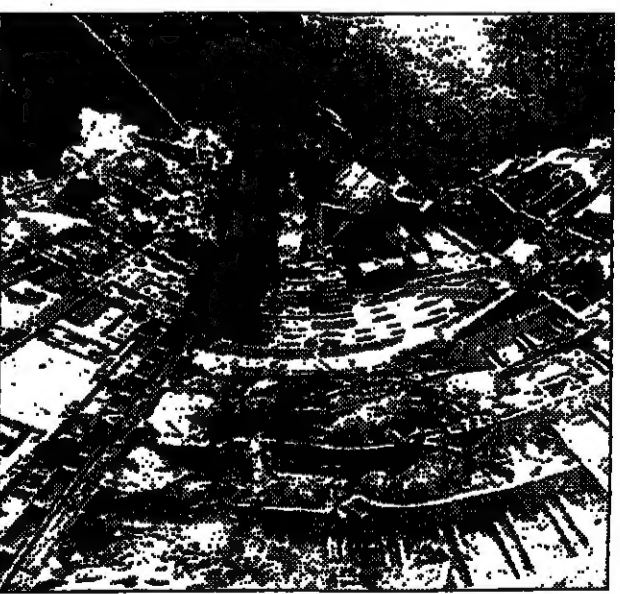
As the plane climbed towards its cruising height about 16 minutes after take-off, it disappeared from radar screens. Witnesses reported seeing a "big fireball in the sky, then a big boom". Somsak Boonbandan, a local villager, said he saw the blinking lights of a plane. "There was a huge explosion of the plane's head and the head went down in a huge ball of fire and exploded again when it hit the ground."

The passengers would have died instantly as the plane broke up and the ruptured fuel tanks caught fire. The main cabin smashed into a hillside while other sections, with passengers still strapped in their seats, fell several miles away.

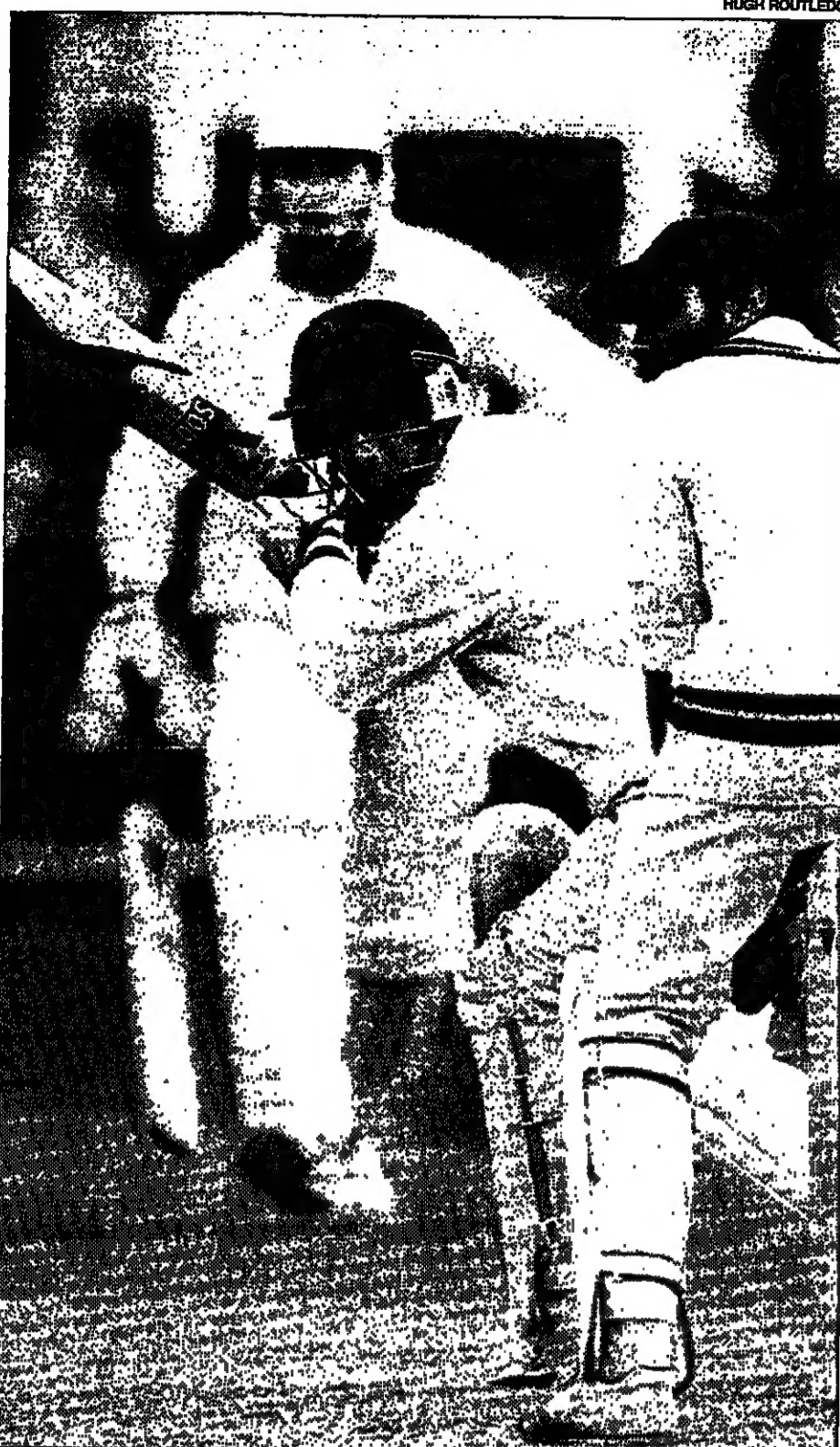
Airline security chiefs had hoped that global attempts to tighten security in the wake of the Lockerbie bombing of a Pan-Am flight in December 1988 would deter terrorists and no intelligence warnings of likely attacks on aircraft had been made in recent months.

The Thai authorities are sensitive to complaints about airport security. Two airlines have been hijacked soon after leaving Bangkok in recent years. Burmese students hijacked a Thai airliner on a flight to Rangoon last November and, in an earlier incident, hijackers seized control of a plane on a domestic flight. During the Gulf war, some Western airlines used their own staff to supervise the checking of baggage and passengers as they were dissatisfied with the airport security arrangements.

Britons killed, page 3
Flight goes on, page 3



Jungle horror: wreckage of the Landa Air Boeing 767



Perfect partners: Neil Fairbrother, watched by colleague Graeme Hick, during their record-breaking stand of 213 in England's victory over the West Indies at Lord's in the Texaco trophy yesterday. Fairbrother scored 113. Match report, page 36

Thatcher wins student cheers over Gorbachev

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND BRUCE CLARK IN TELAVI

HUNDREDS of Moscow students cheered and applauded Margaret Thatcher yesterday as she praised their leader, President Gorbachev, and urged them not to underestimate "the enormous advances in political terms in the Soviet Union".

Her words, spoken by anyone else, would have been received coolly, or even booed, by the cynical students who were packed into the main hall of Moscow State University's institute of international relations. But she arrived and left to applause and her 20-minute speech and question session was interrupted at least a dozen times by cheering. Mrs Thatcher, while praising Mr Gorbachev's "vision and determination", said that the country's central planners should limit the state's interference in business and grant more rights to private entrepreneurs in order to resolve the Soviet Union's economic difficulties.

The official Tass news agency was even more fulsome in its praise than the students. Mrs Thatcher's university session "will serve," it said, "as an excellent lesson for future Soviet diplomats in rhetoric, eloquence and lucidity when discussing key international and internal policy issues".

In Georgia, there was less

cheering news for Mr Gorbachev as Zviad Gamsakhurdia, swept to victory in the elections for the presidency of the southern republic which has promised to break all links with Moscow.

Mr Gamsakhurdia, the republic's political strongman, captured 87 per cent of the vote - almost exactly the target set by him and his supporters as they campaigned for endorsement of his policy resisting Soviet economic and military pressure. The 52-year-old writer,

translator and former political prisoner, who defeated five rivals in the elections, said his priorities now were to strengthen Georgia's position in the world and to halt the decline in the republic's prosperity.

Valerian Adadze, an economics professor who was the favoured candidate of the liberal intelligentsia came second in Sunday's vote with just over six per cent of the vote.

Thatcher plea, page 9
Leading article, page 13

Battling Labour MP Eric Heffer dies at 69

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ERIC Heffer, the veteran left-wing Labour MP, died yesterday after a political career marked by regular clashes with his party's leadership.

Mr Heffer, who was 69, died at his London home after a long struggle against cancer.

His death means a potentially acrimonious by-election at Liverpool, Walton, one of the safest Labour seats in the country. The Labour candidate is expected to be confirmed as Peter Kilfoyle, the party's former north-west regional organiser and a key figure in its long fight against Militant Tendency.

Neil Kinnock, whose purge of Militant was opposed as a "witchhunt" by Mr Heffer, paid warm tribute to him last night. He said: "Eric's death will sadden people right across the Labour movement and far beyond, for everywhere he was regarded with affection because of his capacity for ideas and his combative instincts."

Fiery scourge, page 2
Obituary, page 14

Dolphins and porpoises head for extinction

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT IN REYKJAVIK

DOLPHINS, porpoises and small whales are sliding toward extinction in many parts of the world because of the vast numbers being hunted or killed accidentally in fishing nets, scientists from the International Whaling Commission said yesterday.

In an 80-page report presented to members meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, they painted a picture of marine slaughter on a par with that of Africa's big game. Tens of thousands of animals are killed each year by fishermen, including those of the Japanese Pacific squid fishery, whose boats' total net length would stretch to the Moon three times.

Giving examples across the world, from the beluga, or white whale, in

Canada, to the dolphins and porpoises of the Black Sea and the Dall's porpoise of the Japanese coast, the scientists say that populations are being wiped out faster than they can be replaced. Even the harbour porpoise, familiar around the coasts of Britain, may be threatened by accidental catches in the northeast Atlantic. Peru and Sri Lanka have begun fishing for dolphins with nets and are taking thousands every year.

Catches of dolphin, porpoise and small whale species, collectively known as small cetaceans, are not regulated by the commission. The report is intended to aid the debate on whether they should be. Produced by 54 scientists from around the world, the report confirms a claim made last year by environmentalists, in particular the British-based Environmental

Investigation Agency, that there is a global threat to small cetaceans.

Allan Thornton, the agency's chairman and an observer at the meeting, said yesterday: "The world should wake up to the fact that small cetaceans are the next class of animals facing disappearance." Three specialised species, the Indus river dolphin of Pakistan, the baiji or Chinese river dolphin, and the vaquita, a small Mexican porpoise, are in imminent danger of extinction with only hundreds remaining of each species. Scientists say, however, that many more of the world's 66 small cetacean species are being hunted to dangerous levels.

The report details the killing of vast numbers of dolphins and porpoises in the Black Sea, which are hunted illegally by fishermen from Turkey,

which is not a member of the commission. Populations of these animals have fallen as spectacularly as that of the African elephant. The three principal Black Sea species, the common dolphin, the bottlenose dolphin and the harbour porpoise, were together thought to number between one-and-a-half and two million in the 1930s; the latest estimate is 113,000. Although the hunt was outlawed by Turkey in 1983, scientists say that it is still continuing.

Canada, another non-commission member state, is criticised for allowing belugas to be hunted to potential extinction and for the high numbers of narwhal caught for their ivory. Japan is shown by the report to be the biggest killer of small cetaceans.

Net of greed, page 12

Ethiopia order to surrender provokes a coup attempt

By SAM KILEY IN ADDIS ABABA AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE Ethiopian government effectively surrendered to rebel forces yesterday when it ordered its troops to cease fire just as fighters of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front were set to arrive in the capital within hours. The ceasefire decision provoked a coup attempt against General Tesfaye Gibre Kidan, the acting president of the country, and fighting at his palace continued after sunset.

Herman Cohen, the American envoy, mediating at peace talks in London said the United States had recommended that the rebels enter the city as soon as possible after the truce to restore order in a city where gunfire had resounded all day. But more than an hour after the government made public its decision to declare a ceasefire, gunfire reverberated around the city and there seemed no easing of tension in the capital.

Yesterday afternoon Ethiopian government forces launched a violent attack on the presidential palace, occupied by General Gibre Kidan, in an attempt to prevent him from surrendering to the rebel forces, even as his ministers in London were agreeing a ceasefire with rebel leaders.

There has been violent fighting since Sunday night inside the palace grounds between General Gibre Kidan's bodyguards and other government soldiers attempting to depose him.

At 3.45pm yesterday soldiers, angered by their leader's intention to surrender, attacked with at least 40 tanks which roared up Menelik II Avenue. The tanks fired on the palace while others carried out a flanking manoeuvre to the southeast. Soon after government troops leapt over the palace fence and engaged General Gibre Kidan's bodyguards in a fierce fight which continued after sunset.

Power throughout the city was shut down in order to prevent the president's broadcasts but telecommunications remained open. Diplomats said the president had lost control of the city to his own men by yesterday morning. All Western embassies with nationals still living in the city advised them to remain in their homes as darkness fell across Addis Ababa.

"This is the vacuum of

power we have all been afraid of," said a Western diplomat as military ambulances raced through the city. Looting broke out in the centre of the city and 6,000 prisoners at the Alim Bekaye jail escaped.

In London, Mr Cohen also said after exploratory talks with the Ethiopian government and the main rebel groups that both sides had agreed to stop fighting. His announcement came shortly before the beleaguered government announced its surrender, ending the Marxist regime that has dominated Ethiopia for the past 17 years.

Yesterday Mr Cohen began separate talks with Tesfaye Dinka, the Ethiopian prime minister, and the leaders of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the Oromo Liberation Front and the Ethiopian

Continued on page 20, col 6

Thousands of Jews left behind

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S successful execution of Operation Solomon, the airlift of 15,000 Ethiopian Jews, has been tempered by the revelation that tens of thousands more Jews have been left behind to face an uncertain future in Addis Ababa and rural areas under rebel control.

Although it now seems likely that about 2,000 Jews trapped in rebel-held areas will be allowed to leave for Israel once the situation eases, the more pressing problem is what to do with tens of thousands more Ethiopians who converted to Christianity under duress, but still consider themselves Jews and want to emigrate to Israel.

Initially the Jewish Agency, the organisation responsible for planning Operation Solomon, barred the Christian converts, known in Ethiopia as "Feres Mora", because they did not qualify under Israel's law of return, which stipulates that only Jews have a right to emigrate to Israel. The agency was guided by a 1962 Israeli

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King faces several defence options but no big political design

A PROPOSAL to convert Nato's standing armies in Germany into a rapid reaction corps alongside smaller and more flexible multi-national units lies at the heart of alliance strategy for Europe. Nato defence ministers meeting in Brussels today will study the plan. How is the Brussels blueprint affecting the British government's search for a defence policy for the 1990s? Options for Change threaten to please no one but the Treasury. The options have been under review for more than a year, yet there seems to be no underlying logic, no grand political design, other than a wish to remain a key player in the

new European security set-up. The alliance's cogitations on future force structures have given ministers the excuse to put off crucial political decisions. There are only two ways to carry out a review in the post-cold war era: either you fix financial limits and cut everything down to size, or you assess the reduced threat in Europe, decide what part Britain should play in Nato and out-of-area defence strategy, and reshape the three services accordingly. Ministers appear to be taking the easier option. Unwilling to make radical decisions about Britain's future security role, at least for the moment, Options for

Change is all about squeezing the forces to fit a tighter budget, in the hope that somehow it will fall in line with what is being planned in Brussels. The exercise started off on the wrong foot. Ministers never used the word "review" because they feared it might imply that the process would be resource-driven. But Options for Change is totally resource-driven. Ministers do not want a fundamental re-examination of Britain's defence strategy. So officials are trying to work out long-term costings without having a clear idea of government policy. The Gulf war, of course, added an extra complication. When

Nato defence ministers meet today to draft a strategy for Europe after the cold war. Michael Evans reports on Britain's search for a policy

central staff at the ministry began their study, Options for Change looked relatively straightforward.

The cold war had ended, and the security framework for a different Europe had not been worked out within the alliance, but at least force structures could be re-examined on the basis of a reduced threat. Tom King, the defence secretary, was able to announce last July that two divisions would be

withdrawn from Germany and two out of four RAF bases closed.

Nine days after the announcement, President Saddam's Republican Guard divisions invaded Kuwait. Four months later Britain was committed to sending an armoured division at a cost of £100 million from Germany to Saudi Arabia, an exercise for which the defence ministry discovered it had no contingency plan-

ning. However, if the Gulf war is to be used as a yardstick for constructing a defence strategy for the 1990s, there will be plenty of options but no change.

The same argument applies as far as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are concerned. The debunking of communism in Eastern Europe has generated instabilities of other kinds, though less threatening, and the increasing disaffection of the Soviet military towards President Gorbachev's foreign policy is making even the most fervent supporters of radical change within the alliance hesitate. Yet no one could claim that the Soviet threat has returned to the

cold war era, even if a military/KGB figure were to take over. The trouble is that the government wants the best of both worlds: to maintain an all-round defence capability, and to take a large slice out of the defence budget. This will not work unless ministers are prepared to think radically about what Britain's military requirements are and what levels of manpower and equipment are appropriate.

Under present plans, the RAF will get the European Fighter Aircraft to replace Phantom and Jaguar jets, the army will get its new tank and more multiple-launch rocket systems, the Royal Navy will get a new all-

purpose helicopter and four Trident ballistic missile submarines, and the Royal Marines will have their old assault ships replaced.

We cannot go on fulfilling every commitment, strategic nuclear, theatre nuclear and conventional, yet pretend that we are engaged in a policy rethink that is supposed to thrust our armed forces into the post-cold war era. Keeping everything, but at lower levels, would be the worst possible option. For when the next "crisis" occurs, we could find that our supposedly flexible, rapidly deployable forces would be ill-equipped and incapable of reacting properly to anything.

Poly plans staff cuts to avoid bankruptcy

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BRIGHTON polytechnic is planning to cut its staff-student ratio to more than 20 students for each member of staff by the time it becomes a university to avoid a £17 million deficit.

To balance the books, David Watson, the polytechnic's director, has proposed staff cuts and a deterioration in all support services other than book purchase. Staffing will remain constant next year but levels are expected to rise from 15-to-one to 18-to-one in 1993-4 and 20-to-one in 1994-5.

Twenty-five part-time lecturers have been told they will be made redundant. The faculty of art and design, which employs 20 of them, agreed to withdraw the redundancies last Friday, but may be over-

turned by the directorate. The polytechnic, which has suffered from large student occupations over redundancies among part-time lecturers, is expected to be one of many introducing such staffing levels in the next few years.

In a paper to his governing body, Mr Watson argues that for every 15 students if the quality of education was to be ensured. The need to maintain a balanced budget, however, would have to take precedence over academic objectives. He said that an alternative strategy of holding staffing at its present level would allow the polytechnic to promote quality education, links with other higher education institutions, a European dimension, enhanced research and consultancy activity and increased efficiency.

"We have considerable reservations as to whether the first four objectives can be achieved to the extent previously anticipated, even with the achievement of the fifth objective, if our financial assumptions prove correct and we maintain a balanced revenue budget," he said.

Although the polytechnic had a large surplus in 1990-91 and is expecting a surplus of almost £2 million this year, deficits would begin to grow in 1992-3, according to Professor Watson's paper. The projected deficit would reach £8 million in 1993-4 and more than £17 million the year after. Such a deficit, far the largest of any higher education institution, would mean bankruptcy. Brighton's total budget is projected to remain below £50 million even by 1994-5.

Professor Watson said yesterday that the paper was "a hypothetical assessment of deficits that would ensue if we were not compensated for inflation and took no action ourselves. We are constrained to operate a balanced budget."

Delegates to the annual conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which ended in Brighton yesterday, condemned the cuts.

An emergency resolution accused the government of underfunding polytechnics and colleges deliberately and systematically.

Pressure for an independent secretariat to staff the teachers' pay review body increased today when another union announced that it would be meeting Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to put the case.

Yesterday the National Association of Head Teachers asked to see the prime minister over the issue after getting no satisfaction from Mr Clarke. Now the third largest teachers' union, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, has added its weight to the campaign.

Advice on opting out is school heads' job

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOL heads should advise their governors on whether their schools should opt out of local authority control, a head teachers' leader said last night.

Graham Locke, newly elected treasurer of the National Association of Headteachers and head of Audenshaw high school, Tameside, Greater Manchester, one of the first to be given grant-maintained status, said: "Heads should consider all the ways they might be able to improve the status of their schools."

"Looking at going grant-maintained would be part of that advice, even though they might eventually decide against it, and there are many reasons why a head might not think it was the best way forward for their own school."

He said that there was considerable extra strain on the head teacher, who had to cope with responsibilities far more demanding than those imposed by the local management of schools (LMS), which leaves schools in local authority control but passes the day-to-day running to heads and governors. "Under LMS there is always somebody to blame. If you need somebody to blame, don't go grant-maintained," he said.

Mr Locke, one of about 35 association members running the first 72 opt-out schools, was criticised by his colleagues when his school left council control in 1989. David Hart, general secretary of the association, said: "The antagonism towards individual grant-maintained schools felt by colleagues working in the same region has faded away because heads and deputies are not in the business of treating their fellows as pariahs."

"There is concern, however, about the impact of the grant-maintained movement as a whole, particularly if there is to be a rapid expansion as planned by the government. There is a big question mark over the future viability of local education authorities and therefore the viability of those schools who can't or won't go grant-maintained."

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, says that he expects most secondary schools to seek grant-maintained status, a prospect that will be attacked at the association conference opening in Scarborough tomorrow. It is feared that allowing extra money to schools opting out will damage those that stay in.



Holmes from home: sculptor Gerald Laing with his larger-than-life bronze statue of Sherlock Holmes, which is being kept in the grounds of his garden

at Kinkell Castle, near Inverness, before being set up in Edinburgh next month. The statue of the fictional detective is believed to be the only one in Britain.

Secrets of duty-free purchasers

LIFE in Scandinavia may be even grimmer than we all imagined. A survey published today shows that Scandinavians buy more booze, more deodorants and more blank video cassettes than anyone else when they pass through Heathrow airport's duty-free shops (Joe Joseph writes).

Almost as many Japanese queue up for liquor, and their total bill is far higher than anyone else's - £100 each on average - partly because Scotch and Cognac are so dear in Tokyo, partly because Japanese are obliged to take home holiday gifts for everyone.

Canadians come across as a sober bunch, only 5 per cent buying duty-free drink compared with 34 per cent of Scandinavians, 29 per cent of Britons. Germans like champagne and the French go for deluxe whisky and Baileys.

Stand-off over loitering law

By KERRY GILL

A SHOWER of protest is expected to fall on Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, this week after a decision by Gordon district council to impose an old, forgotten by-law that prohibits "standing or loitering without good reason".

The council believes the by-law will prevent ugly, late-night scenes in which gangs from rival villages have fought after emerging from public houses. Having persuaded its legal staff to dredge up the old by-law, thought no longer to exist elsewhere in Scotland, the council is determined to have it enacted in spite of wide-ranging disquiet.

It was decided at the weekend that objectors should write letters of complaint to Mr Lang, who has the final say. The council and the protesters believe the matter may have to be resolved by a public enquiry.

Peter Macari, an Aberdeen lawyer, said: "This proposed by-law ... is an anachronism that used to be one of the old burgh police laws used as a catch-all."

"It would give the police the power to challenge any citizen who was not on the move. The freedom to lean on a bridge and contemplate the water below would be removed. No longer could anybody, old or young, simply take some time to watch the world go by without the risk of being challenged," he said.

Gordon district, known as "castle country", is keen to promote itself as a tourism area, but objectors claim that if the by-law is passed tourists could be moved on under pain of arrest.

"Who is to say what is a valid reason for standing or loitering," asked Mr Macari. "It is simply a naive and puerile attempt to give the police extra powers."

Alan Grant, the council's legal director, said the by-law was intended to stop violence among rival villages. "After some lunatic and having it was approved in principle but we have to apply to Mr Lang for confirmation."

He conceded the objectors did have a point. The law gave the police power to move anyone who was loitering, but the council had become increasingly concerned about drunken brawls in which shop windows had been broken.

An initial rise of only 1 or 2 percentage points in interest, it says, would greatly alter market perception of Labour commitment to ERM parity. The fact that Labour was prepared to accept economic and political damage from raising interest, would be an impressive sign of commitment.

As a result, far fewer market operators would expect devaluation. The study says markets would exact a price, in the form of a significant interest rate premium, if Labour won office. A two-point rise might suffice, prompt.

The likelihood is that a new Labour government would face an immediate test of its determination to defend sterling in the financial markets," it says. "Even that it would be more tolerant of a devaluation would put sterling under pressure. The first line of defence would be intervention on the foreign exchange to support it, but the scale of selling would likely be such as to quickly force the new government to make the choice between raising interest rates or accepting a devaluation of sterling's ERM parities."

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Lang: target for letters from the objectors

Octopuses and wild wallabies mean summer is here

By JOE JOSEPH

YOU can tell when summer has started in Britain. It is summer when someone gets bitten by an octopus or a Blandford Fly, or sees a puma near Tesco's, and instead of reaching for the sting relief cream or a large whisky, like normal people, telephones the local newspaper.

Local newspapers, devoid of anything else to write about because the local council has flown off on a research trip to São Paulo to see whether coffee-growing could be transplanted to Cumbria, print these fantastic tales. National papers, with even bigger pages to fill, comment on these sightings and bittings as a sort of weather service for readers: if

the silly news has arrived, summer cannot be far behind.

The first ray of panic has fallen on the south coast, where bathers are preparing for a plague of octopuses. Thousands of 5ft beasts are apparently massing off France, itching to frisk the legs of bathers in Dorset and Devon. Dr Roddy Williamson, of Plymouth Marine Laboratory, says: "There have been two recorded plagues, in the 1950s and at the turn of the century, and we could be about to see a third. A mild winter leads to an explosion of the population off northern France, and thousands then swarm across the Channel looking for uncrowded territory and plentiful food." It

appears that the food may include your legs, octopuses being rather dim animals, so the marine biologists advise that if you do not want to end up with bruised legs that look like seersucker, steer clear.

Dorset reporters have been twice blessed this holiday weekend, because the Blandford Fly is at large, although North Dorset district council spent £80,000 spraying the Stour to kill the larvae. Women have spent the weekend fending off these lady-chasing vampires. Phyllis Richard, aged 70, of Oakdale, near Bournemouth, said: "I've been nibbled on the leg, and it's swollen right up. I'm scared to go into the garden now." Nicholas Baker, Tory MP for

Dorset North, compares the fly to Saddam Hussein, saying, "It's a nasty, hairy vicious thing which has to be done away with." Now, a Blandford Fly that sues for defamation would make a really good story.

The Surrey puma has been seen near Caterham, and will probably be followed by reports of the return of the Welsh puma, known as the Beast of Margam Forest in West Glamorgan, the Exeter puma and the sinister, black Isle of Wight puma. Soon, there will be sharks sighted off Bournemouth, though it is never clear why a shark would bother waiting for blue-rinsed pensioners to paddle its way.

Then there are the wild wallabies.

There are communities of them in the Peak District and around Loch Lomond. Occasionally, they jump further than expected, and the calls go through to the local newspapers.

One wayward wallaby fell into trouble two summers ago when he hopped off a Highland wildlife park and risked developing a bad case of haemorrhoids. The park's warden, Malcolm Moy, said: "Wallabies spend so much time on their bum, they become prone to piles in our climate. He had a coarsened life at the park, where fresh straw was put down all the time."

So if you spot a wallaby that squeals ouch with every bounce, you know where to call.

Benn and Kinnock lead tributes to reformists' scourge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ERIC Heffer, who died yesterday at the age of 69 after an 18-month battle against cancer, was an old-style firebrand left-winger and constant critic of Neil Kinnock's reforms.

His death means a by-election in the safe Labour seat of Liverpool Walton that seems certain to be dominated by Labour's renewed purge of the Militant Tendency on Merseyside. Labour's candidate is expected to be Peter Kilfoyle, who is known as "the hammer of Militant".

Mr Heffer's death was announced by his friend and fellow left-winger, Tony Benn, under whom he served in his only government post as industry minister in the 1974-9 Labour government.

Mr Benn and Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, led the tributes last night to the quick-tempered churchgoer and former Communist who was proud to be known as a class-warrior. At the age of eight he led a choirboys' strike over wages at his local church, and he was a rebel right to the last.

Mr Benn said: "Eric Heffer was one of the finest socialists of his generation; a great thinker, a man of courage and principle. He leaves a gap which will not be easy to fill." Mr Kinnock said: "Eric's death will sadden people right across the Labour movement and far beyond. Everywhere he was regarded with affection because of his capacity for ideas and his combative instincts."

Despite the warmth of Mr Kinnock's words, relations had not been good. Mr Heffer's exasperation with what he saw as the retreat from socialism led him to challenge Mr Kinnock for the party leadership in 1983 and to join Mr Benn to challenge for the leadership and deputy leadership in 1988.

Mr Heffer regularly criticised Mr Kinnock, and ostentatiously walked off the platform during the Labour leader's celebrated attack on

Militant during the 1985 party conference in Bournemouth. Although unpopular with the leadership, he won admiration for the bravery with which he fought stomach cancer. He channelled his efforts into writing, and completed four books in 18 months. He had just finished one on Labour and the Gulf war, the last of many issues on which he differed with Mr Kinnock.

Obituary, page 14

Labour 'would face loan-rate pressure'

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INCOMING Labour government might have to order an immediate 2 per cent rise in interest rates to demonstrate its resolve to defend the pound's value in the European exchange-rate mechanism, a City study claims today.

The London-based Nomura Research Institute predicts that a Kinnock government would face a "baptism of fire", with an early run on the pound as dealers tested its anti-inflationary credentials.

"Since the political and economic costs for Labour of devaluing would be prohibitive, it would be compelled to raise interest rates," Nomura says.

The institute, part of Nomura, the Japanese securities firm, claims in the first issue of its *Political Watch* publication that higher interest rates would hit growth and push up the retail price index through dearer mortgages. The study, quoting a recent survey, says that two-thirds of City economists expect Labour to devalue eventually.

The likelihood is that a new Labour government would face an immediate test of its determination to defend sterling in the financial markets," it says. "Even that it would be more tolerant of a devaluation would put sterling under pressure. The first line of defence would be intervention on the foreign exchange to support it, but the scale of selling would likely be such as to quickly force the new government to make the choice between raising interest rates or accepting a devaluation of sterling's ERM parities."

An initial rise of only 1 or 2 percentage points in interest, it says, would greatly alter market perception of Labour commitment to ERM parity. The fact that Labour was prepared to accept economic and political damage from raising interest, would be an impressive sign of commitment.

As a result, far fewer market operators would expect devaluation. The study says markets would exact a price, in the form of a significant interest rate premium, if Labour won office. A two-point rise might suffice, prompt.

Charges under the Official Secrets Act against two peace campaigners who broke into RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, during the Gulf war have been dropped. Juliet McBride and Stan Jones were arrested after protesting against the use of the base by American B52 bombers. The Attorney General has decided to drop all charges against people who protested at the base during the conflict.

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Solicitors ready for code of quality

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 big solicitors' firms are expected to seek the British Standards "quality" symbol for managing their practices with the backing of a code of practice published by the Law Society.

The code, devised jointly by the society and the British Standards Institution, is being launched to help solicitors to obtain the British Standard 5750, the services equivalent of the "kitemark" quality symbol.

The launch was initially delayed because of concern among senior Law Society members and officials that the regular monitoring visits and inspection of clients' files by the British Standards Institution could jeopardise a solicitor's duty of confidentiality to his client. The society has now agreed that as solicitors cannot in law permit that duty of confidentiality to be overridden, such inspections can only be made with the consent of the client.

John Aucott, chairman of the committee which agreed the code with the British Standards Institution, said: "Bad quality is expensive. Doing things wrong, having to recheck work, checking and re-checking, costs time and money, and loses clients."

70,000 want to take beagles

The RSPCA has denounced a call from a leading beagle breeder to put down many of the animals bred for export, saying that the society is trying to save and has described the public response as unique in the society's history.

More than 70,000 families have offered homes for the 420 beagles bred at Perrygrove Farm, near Malvern, Hereford, and Worcester, after confirmation that the kennels had lost their licence.

In the first half-hour of the rescue operation on Friday the RSPCA received 3,500 calls, and through the holiday weekend, after the first batch of 53 beagles had been sent to RSPCA animal homes around the country, calls have continued to flood in.

Gallery charge

Three men, all aged 21 and unemployed, charged with conspiracy to commit aggravated burglary and armed robbery at the National Gallery on Friday, were remanded in custody yesterday. Jason Wilkins, of Grendon, Atherstone, Warwickshire; Martin McCracken, of Scunthorpe; and Philip Neasham, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, appeared before Marylebone magistrates' court.

Charges dropped

Charges under the Official Secrets Act against two peace campaigners who broke into RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, during the Gulf war have been dropped. Juliet McBride and Stan Jones were arrested after protesting against the use of the base by American B52 bombers. The Attorney General has decided to drop all charges against people who protested at the base during the conflict.

No change

Dame Peggy Ashcroft's condition was unchanged yesterday, four days after she suffered a stroke. The Royal Free hospital in Hampstead, north London said: "There is no change. She is still unconscious but is comfortable." Admirers of the actress, aged 83, have sent flowers.

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Distributed by the Times Newspapers Ltd
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Two Britons reported dead after Austrian Boeing 767 explodes without apparent cause

UN drug control agent killed in Thai air disaster

By PETER VICTOR

DONALD McIntosh, a British drug control agent for the United Nations, was among 223 people killed when the Austrian Boeing 767-300 exploded over Thailand late on Sunday. Another Briton reported to have died in the crash has not been identified.

Mr McIntosh, aged 43, who lived in Bangkok, was a senior field adviser for the UN International Drug Control Programme and was on secondment from the Home Office. A spokesman said his job had involved helping to set up projects intended to combat drug trafficking.

A spokesman for the Vienna-based UN programme said that Mr McIntosh, who headed the programme's Bangkok office, had been involved in nothing that would mark him the target of a drug-related assassination.

"I can't imagine that anything he would have done would have got him on to anybody's blacklist," the spokesman said.

"What I can say for sure is that we never had any threat, either open or implied, that we received here or that he received in Bangkok which



McIntosh was returning to Vienna for talks

would lead any credence to such an assumption."

Mr McIntosh had a key role in the operation of UN-backed field projects, assisting governments in their fight against the drug barons and warlords who control the region's opium fields.

As senior field adviser he monitored the progress of initiatives intended to stamp out the heroin trade at source by cutting off the supply of opium. Farmers in remote areas were helped and persuaded to grow crops other than the lucrative opium poppy. The official emphasised

that the UN was not actively involved in anti-drug operations but provided equipment, training and advice for the governments carrying them out.

The Golden Triangle, source of most of the world's heroin, is the mountainous region straddling the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand. Last year it is said to have produced more than 2,000 tons of illicit opium, which is refined into heroin and smuggled abroad, mainly to the US.

Opium from the area first became a problem 20 years ago, and despite efforts to stop its production is booming. In 1989 it doubled in Burma and rose by 49 per cent in Laos. Experts blame the endemic addiction and corruption in the area, and the fact that Western attention has switched largely to the cocaine barons of South America.

Last year a new heroin and cannabis smuggling route to Britain was exposed by drugs intelligence officers. Producers were said to be refining a form of smokable heroin.

The drug trade in Thailand was highlighted most recently by the arrest of the British girls Patricia Cahill, aged 17, and Karyn Smith, 19, accused of attempting to smuggle heroin worth £4 million out of the country. Smith was jailed for 25 years last December and Cahill received an 18-year sentence a week ago.

Mr McIntosh had worked in Bangkok since December and had been returning to Vienna for a meeting. The spokesman said that he had recently accompanied the programme director to China to discuss increased co-operation between the governments of China, Thailand and Burma.

A Home Office spokesman confirmed yesterday that Mr McIntosh had been on secondment to the drug control programme since September 1988. At one stage he had worked in the Home Office drugs inspectorate. He was believed to have relations in the North.



Crash debris: A Thai rescue worker collecting the belongings of passengers from among the debris of the Landa Air Boeing 767

Fight goes on to prevent another Lockerbie

INTERNATIONAL security experts will be saddened but not surprised if terrorism was to blame for the loss of the Austrian airliner over Thailand.

To the astonishment of the US commission which investigated Lockerbie, the Federal Aviation Administration was still failing to enforce some important security regulations nine months after Pan Am flight 103 exploded over the Borden town.

Security loopholes also continue to plague British airports and airlines. After Lockerbie, several counter-measures were deployed, including the appointment of a transport security "overlord" with the power to ground airlines with inadequate security and the creation of a new offence making it illegal for passengers to give false information

where standards of counter-terrorism are relatively high: a continuing under-valuation of the threat and a reluctance to meet the high cost of security improvements.

Such moves have failed to make redundant the regular airport spot-checks conducted by government inspectors. In October last year, for example, an inspector smuggled a replica pistol and a fake bomb past guards at Manchester airport.

Over the past decade some 750 people are known to have died in air-bombings, which in the early 1980s superseded hijackings as the favoured

form of air terrorism. Apart from the Pan Am disaster, in which 270 people died, the most notorious incidents have been the destruction of an Air India Boeing 747 over the Atlantic in June 1985, with the loss of 329 lives, and the bombing of a Korean Airlines 707 in November 1987, in which 115 were killed. Since 1982 there have been more than 30 attempted and successful bombings in the air.

In the Air India and Pan Am incidents, the fatal device was in an unaccompanied bag or suitcase which airline officials failed to identify. In the Pan Am crash, lack of proper "baggage reconciliation" procedure at Heathrow and Frankfurt airports was cited as a key factor by Sheriff John Mowat, QC, in his fatal accident enquiry. The chain of

airliner catastrophes has spawned a host of new security devices. Widely seen as the most significant is a \$600,000 US-built machine which bathes passengers' baggage in low-energy neutrons to detect explosives.

While it is seen as an immense advance on x-ray and "sniffer" techniques, some scientists believe that the machine, now under trial at several airports including Gatwick, would not have detected a device as small as the bomb that destroyed Pan Am 103.

British air safety experts are also calling for the strengthening of airlines to withstand bomb blasts. Airline manufacturers, however, have voiced some scepticism about the proposals made by the Air Accident Investigation Branch.

County harbours regional ambition

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

WEST Sussex is to seek to become a fully-fledged European region in a move that could signal a new role for county councils in England and Wales.

Under government plans for reform of local government, one of the two present tiers of county and district councils will be abolished, and many believe that in most areas the county councils will go.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has said that the new local government commission, which will redraw the municipal map, will have a duty to consider local feelings. Nevertheless, county councils have begun looking for new roles to ensure their continued existence and to promote their case that they, rather than the smaller districts, are the logical choice as the new unitary authorities.

West Sussex county council commissioned Stephen Garish, former secretary of the local government boundary commission, to report on the county's regional significance. His report recommends that West Sussex, already part of one of the second tier of regions designated by the European Commission, should be elevated to first-tier status, eligible for European grants.

The EC recognises three tiers in Britain, the government's economic planning regions, such as Scotland, Wales and East Anglia, are first-tier regions. Some county councils, including Essex and Kent, enjoy second-tier status in their own right, while the rest are grouped in units. West Sussex is linked with Surrey and East Sussex at level two. All counties have regional status at the lowest level. The problem for counties is that grants from the EC social fund and the regional development fund go to first-tier authorities and most are cut off from bidding directly for them.

English counties also feel

cut off from the growing European dialogue between first-tier regions, entering as mini-states in the making of a new Europe. Indeed, one reason for Mrs Thatcher's opposition to greater European integration is said to have been the thought that Brussels would rather deal with a federation of regions than with nations.

Brian Fieldhouse, chief executive of West Sussex county council, said that in the English context, region meant a county council.

Farm subsidy 'should go by 2001'

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ALL price subsidies for the European Community's nine million farmers should be phased out within ten years as part of a general liberalisation of world agricultural trade, according to a report by a prominent free-market think-tank published today.

The report, published by the Adam Smith Institute, which supplied Mrs Thatcher with many of the blueprints for privatisation, also suggests that the agriculture ministry merge with the trade and industry department, that milk marketing boards and other organisations restricting competition be wound up, and that government-owned forests be privatised, leaving the Forestry Commission as a regulatory body.

The authors, Linda Whetstone, a livestock farmer, and Richard Howarth, a lecturer in agricultural economics at the University of Wales and a part-time farmer, argue that winding up the EC's common agricultural policy would benefit the average family by about £1,000 a year and would raise average incomes by increasing international trade. The gains, they say, would greatly outweigh loss of jobs in

agriculture. The institute's prescriptions are likely to find less favour in the post-Thatcher era. The farming proposals go well beyond anything contemplated by John Gummer, the agriculture minister, and they would be anathema to the National Farmers' Union.

As farm subsidies were removed, the report suggests, money saved on price support and other measures could be

paid as a cash hand-out on a per-farmer rather than a per-acre basis. That would give farmers a breathing space in which to decide whether to stay in farming.

Compensation could not be open-ended. "After a maximum of 10 years farmers must rely on the market for their returns, and if they have problems with their business they must tackle them like any other manager," the authors

say. Reform of that sort would be helped by the disappearance of the agriculture ministry, they add. There was no logic in allocating a ministry with 10,900 staff to an industry employing only 2.2 per cent of the labour force when all other industries shared a single department.

Euromag Project: Agriculture (Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London SW1P 3DJ)

Bat lovers get detection aid

By NICK NUTTALL AND IOLA SMITH

A BRITISH wildlife expert has developed a bat detector that is doing for lovers of the pipistrelle and the horseshoe species what binoculars have done for fanciers of the osprey and the marsh warbler.

Recognising bats can be a frustrating experience as the shy, tiny animals fly at night and their distinctive screeches are made in the ultrasonic sound spectrum which is too high for the human ear. The solution has been developed by John Wilde, a Welsh conservationist, whose hand-

held detector is helping conservationists to identify which of Britain's 15 species of bat might be flying overhead.

The radio-like device picks up the bats' calls through a microphone, converting them into sounds which can be heard by the human ear. Pipistrelles, Britain's commonest bats, can be identified by the machine-gun-like clicks they produce at the machine's frequency of 100kHz. Their cousins, the horseshoe bats, are more

musical, making warbling sounds at 82kHz.

The £90 detector, made by Skye Instruments of Llandrindod Wells, Powys, has earned Mr Wilde a Welsh rural enterprise award. The detectors are also helping the Bat Conservation Trust's newly launched scheme to identify which habitats and terrain are related to which bat species.

As well as being bought by British conservationists the devices are also being exported to enthusiasts in Germany, Australia and America.

Firms bag the market for 1990s snack craze

By WILLIAM CASH

SORRY, but the caviare is off. Today, whether you prefer them ribbed, hooped or extruded, the savoury snack is on course to be the fashionable light refreshment of the decade, according to a leading retailer's report on global nibbling habits.

The snack market is on the brink of a sales explosion, according to a forecast by Smiths Crisps, with the present £1.3 billion market expected to triple to £4.5 billion by the year 2000. Our appetite for snacks will accelerate in line with US habits, with increased demand for jumbo-sized packs that will require modifications to the size of schoolboys' pockets and lunchboxes.

We already crunch our way through an annual 9lb of savoury snacks each (Americans eat nearly 14lb) and by the end of the year more than one third of consumers' food bills will be for instant or snack foods. The decline of the British lunch and an expected 16 per cent increase in children by the end of the decade are being earmarked as major contributors to the snack boom.

The top flavours for the Nineties are likely to remain the old favourites: ready salted (1st), cheese and onion (2nd), salt and vinegar (3rd), with bacon, beef, chicken and prawn cocktail in joint seventh place. Crisps, however, are no longer the favourite. Cheese-flavoured rings, savoury biscuits and nuts are now extremely popular.

Research has found snack buying to be impulsive. New promotional gimmicks will feature heavily in marketing strategy. As well as having your appetite whetted by the outlandish flavours, there is a bewildering range of toys, stickers and quizzes lurking in the bottom of the bag.

Europe, where Spain is the second biggest savoury snack consumer after Britain, is to follow our lead. British snack manufacturers are preparing to cash in on the undeveloped continental market, where in many countries the demand for snacks is expected quickly to outstrip that for soft drinks and sweets.

Astronaut tells of wonder of space

HELEN Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, spoke yesterday of the wonders of space and of her landing back on Earth.

"I did not want to come back. I was very busy. I could easily have spent another two weeks up in space. I was really having a wonderful time. The weightless conditions were absolutely superb," she said.

Miss Sharman, Viktor Afanasyev, the Soviet commander, and Musa Manarov, the engineer, spoke of their experiences at a news conference at Star City, near Moscow.

She said that during docking with Mir, weightlessness made it very difficult for her to get into her space suit. "After two days I had grown a couple of centimetres."

She described vivid colour changes - from brown to red to orange-red - as the Soyuz spaceship re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, generating so much heat that she saw the covering paint on the space capsule melt.

Speaking to reporters through a glass panel because of quarantine restrictions, Miss Sharman said: "When we first landed I felt very heavy. Even lifting up an arm was difficult."

She could see different parts of Earth speeding past as the



Sharman: wanted two more weeks in space

spaceship orbited at 18,000 mph. The large deserts and oceans "made me wonder why we think we are so important." Back on Earth she was acutely aware of ordinary smells. The smell of grass was "wonderfully fresh."

She had only felt frightened once during the eight-day mission, when she was alone in one part of Soyuz while Viktor and Musa were checking equipment in another part.

Miss Sharman will spend several days at Star City before flying back to Britain. With Tim Mace, Britain's reserve spaceman, she will receive the Order of Friendship of the Soviet Peoples from President Gorbachev at a ceremony next month.

Shedding real tears over fictional addiction

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

TREVOR Brindley is not a man given to tears. The owner of five factories in the West Midlands, he has made his money the hard way and learnt to keep his emotions in check.

But the reserve that has proved invaluable in his twin careers as industrialist and leading local Conservative politician deserted him last week as a lump rose in his throat and tears clouded his eyes. Such are the effects on a true believer of coming face-to-face with the inhabitants of the small village in Dorsetshire whose everyday doings have become a compulsion for seven million radio listeners.

Ambridge exerts a powerful influence on those who tune in to Radio 4 every weekday to listen to *The Archers*, and some of those under its spell have banded together to share their affec-

tion. *Archers Addicts*, formed last year, will enrol its 2,000th member this week. A lunch for selected members to meet the cast was held last week during a recording of episodes due for broadcast next month.

Mr Brindley, one of the original members, found the experience almost too much. "Don't ask me how I feel," he said, pulling a silk handkerchief from his pocket. "I am floating, it is wonderful."

He had just met the woman he once dreamed of marrying. So blurred are the boundaries between art and life in these situations that he had trouble deciding whether to call her Shula Hebden (née Archer) or by her real name, Judy Bennett.



Bennett: radio admirer was overcome

selling something or other, and fell in love with Shula, and she with me. Meeting Judy Bennett was like meeting Shula.

"The emotions that I went through were quite incredible. I don't think I have ever experienced anything like it before. I got a big lump in my throat and I came close to shedding a tear. It was as if

I had been away for a long, long time and I had come home. I suppose you could liken it to religion. It is the best 15 minutes' relaxation: you are off into another world. It must be like being on drugs."

His infatuation with Ambridge goes back many years. "I can truly say that I have listened to *The Archers* for all of my 38 years, although I have only been really serious about it for the last 30 years," he said. "I used to pester my parents to turn the radio on so that I could listen."

In those days it was on the Home Service at quarter to seven, followed by Radio Newsworld. It was always bedtime after *The Archers*.

He grew up in rural south Staffordshire - "It was very much true *Archers*' country at the time" - and now has five factories in the Black Country and he is Tory constituency chairman in Wolverhampton North East,

the third most marginal constituency in Britain.

He is not alone in blurring the line between reality and fiction. Hodli Niklaus plays Cathy Perks, estranged wife of Sid, the landlord of the Bull, the village pub, and is a director of *Archers Addicts*.

"Someone once told me that what we do is art, but it isn't," she said. "It is a craft, and damned good craftsmanship at that. People do have real difficulty in realising that I am an actress and Cathy is not me."

Patricia Gallimore, who is Pat Archer, wife of Tony, said: "When I go to agricultural shows, people often come up to me and say 'Thank goodness you haven't brought that whingeing Tony with you'. I just have to accept that for many people I am Pat Archer."

● *Archers Addicts* (PO Box 1951, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9DD)

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A-test veterans die as payout fight drags on

THE government is continuing its refusal to pay compensation to former servicemen who say they have contracted cancer after witnessing nuclear tests in the 1950s. Repeated attempts in the Commons and in the courts have failed to shift the government's stand, and campaigners are claiming that time is running out for many of those affected.

Britain carried out a series of atmospheric nuclear test explosions in the 1950s at Christmas Island, in the Pacific, and Malden Island in Australia. A high proportion of the men who witnessed the tests now suffer from multiple myeloma and myeloid leukaemia, according to the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association.

Ken McGinley, its chairman, said yesterday that another 15 of its members had died since the beginning of this year, 14 of them from cancer. "What these people need is a lump sum compensation. A pension is no good to them, although their widows might see some benefit," he said.

In the late 1980s the veterans brought a test case

Veterans of British nuclear tests claim a link to cancer incidence. The government denies it. Time is running out. Peter Victor reports

against the government, seeking leave for Mervyn Pearce, a former lance-corporal in the Royal Engineers who witnessed tests on Christmas Island in 1958, to sue for compensation. The government said, however, that it was not liable.

George Younger, the then defence secretary, said section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act gave the government immunity from prosecution. Mr Pearce was given leave by the Court of Appeal to sue the government in 1987 but by this time he was too ill to attend the hearing. The defence ministry continued to fight the case right up to the House of Lords, where Mr Pearce finally won his case in April 1988, when five law lords ruled in his favour.

The ministry has never accepted the Lords' judgment, which has forced all servicemen wishing for compensation to bring in-

dividual prosecutions. The veterans claim that links between the nuclear tests and the number of cancer cases are backed by the National Radiological Protection Board which, in 1988, reported that "there may well have been small hazards of leukaemia and multiple myeloma associated with the programme". Tests carried out by the board on 22,347 veterans of the nuclear explosions showed that there was a higher incidence of the two cancers than in the population as a whole.

The government says, however, that the study found no detectable effect of exposure to radiation on life expectancy or any overall increase in the risk of developing cancer. The possible small risk was not proved, it concluded. Another study by the board on the veterans, expected last January, has been delayed

for at least a year. Mr McGinley believes that some recent events have given hope to the veterans. Earlier this month, a coroner in Chertsey, Surrey, ruled that Group Captain Leonard Giles, base commander on Christmas Island during the nuclear tests, died of an industrial disease.

The verdict was seen as a vindication of the campaigners' claims. Janet Shirley, his doctor, submitted a statement to the court saying that his symptoms were typical of those suffered by victims of the Hiroshima bomb.

Last month, John Major sent a letter to John Hall, a former RAF technician who flew through nuclear dust clouds during the South Pacific test explosions. It said that he was anxious that the postponement of publication of the protection board's report "should not delay consideration of any claims if any other evidence can be adduced in support of establishing a causal link". Campaigners believe that Mr Hall will become a test case for other sufferers.



Creativity in confinement: work at Albany prison, Isle of Wight, on the art and craft course run by Colin Riches

How art draws the sting from life behind bars

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LIFE for the long-term prisoner is simple and mind-numbingly pointless. "In the absence of any distractions you listen first to your bodily functions," said Chris Linnen, who is serving a long sentence, most recently at Blantyre House, near Bristol.

He came alive, he said, by discovering a talent for painting. Last year, Linnen passed A-level art and won an award for a work painted with stolen paints on torn mattress.

Geo Williams was luckier. He was a prisoner at the top-security Albany jail on the Isle of Wight, which has an art and crafts class run by the sculptor Colin Riches. It got Mr Williams on to an art foundation course at Lancaster polytechnic on release.

Both men have given their testimonies at a Royal College of Art symposium on art in jail chaired by Judge Tumm, chief inspector of prisons in England and Wales, who now wants a working party to look into how art can be made more accessible inside. "Their papers were moving and enlightening," he said. "What is clear is that we have underestimated the potential of the arts in prison. We have to clear the way for art teaching in prisons to be the norm, rather than the exception, and liberalise the system."

Christopher Frayling, head of the college's humanities faculty, organised the symposium. "Prison has a dehumanising effect, and here is a simple way of reversing it," he said. "The Home Office needs to take a much closer interest in the expansion of visual arts provisions in prisons following the Woolf report findings after the Strangeways riot."

Even the few prisons allowing artistic pursuits have strictures. Some prisoners are forbidden to sculpt heads in case they use them in escape attempts, or to use knives in case they attack warders, or Plasticine, in case keyholes are blocked. "Prisoners are not allowed to use turpentine in case they burn the prison down," Judge Tumm said. "How they are expected to clean their brushes without it, I can't imagine. One of the things that needs to be encouraged is prison staff joining classes to break down some of the fear on both sides."

The Home Office has been sent proposals that include provision in all prisons for art and craft activities including and basic materials; the ability of prisoners to sell work in order to buy materials; encouragement of professional artists in residence; and access to information on arts courses available on release.

War prisoner dies

An RAF navigator thought to have been the first Briton captured by the Germans in the second world war has died, aged 80. George Booth, of Guiseley, near Leeds, was in the first RAF raid of the war, the day after it began on September 3, 1939, acting as a navigator and bomb aimer in a Blenheim fighter-bomber that went to attack warships at Wilhelmshafen. Mr Booth's aircraft crashed, but he was rescued from the sea. He was kept in 15 prison camps before being freed by American troops near Hanover at the end of the war in 1945.

Fire assault

Fuel-sniffing youths set fire to a boy who warned them of dangers they faced. Stephen Thompson, aged 12, approached two older boys after seeing them inhaling fumes from a cigarette lighter near his home in Leeds. One held him down and the other set his tracksuit alight. He was yesterday in hospital with severe leg burns.

Cricket date



The actress Jenny Seagrove (above), the singer David Essex and the comedian Jasper Carrott are among celebrities due to play in a cricket match against inmates of Ford open prison, near Arundel, West Sussex. The Guinness case defendants Ernest Saunders and Tony Parnes are among inmates organising an open day on June 29 to aid the Gulf Trust.

Steeple fall

Chris Armitage, aged 38, was seriously ill in hospital with back injuries yesterday after falling 40ft from the steeple of Aston Keynes church, near Swindon, Wiltshire, during a sponsored abseiling display.

Cable crash

A hot-air balloonist escaped uninjured after crashing into 11,000-volt electricity cables near Carmarthen, Dyfed, yesterday. More than 750 homes had their supplies cut off.

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Irish talks still in deadlock over choice of chairman

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE death of an RUC constable caught up in an IRA ambush at the weekend obscured the continuing deadlock between Britain and the Irish Republic over the role and identity of an independent chairman for the talks on Northern Ireland.

Edward William Spence, aged 26, from Larne in Co Antrim, who was married with two young children, was hit on Saturday by gunfire directed at an RUC patrol near Donegal Pass, central Belfast. He is the fifth member of the force to be killed this year. British and Irish officials met again yesterday at the foreign ministry in Dublin to try to sort out a list of candidates and a defined role for an independent chairman for phase two of the talks, involving discussions between Northern Ireland party leaders and the Irish government.

The chairmanship difficulties seem to be delaying the start of plenary talks on devolution, although it is possible that Peter Brooke, the

Northern Ireland secretary, may try to kick-start the process at Stormont today. One Unionist source said that his party was happy to begin phase one (between the parties in the province) while the question of the chairman remained unresolved. The Irish government, however, indicated that it would prefer the chairman to be sorted out before any talks begin.

Although the Northern Ireland Office is refusing to comment on possible candidates, one name widely canvassed this weekend is Rosalie Abella, aged 45, a Toronto-based Canadian lawyer and former judge. She is an expert on equality law and chairman of the Ontario Law Reform Commission. She visited Belfast two years ago to lecture at Queen's university on inter-ethnic and labour disputes.

According to reports at the weekend, the Northern Ireland Office has approached Ms Abella as a possible chairman and she has made clear

that she would be prepared to return to Northern Ireland if asked to do so. Spokesmen for all the main parties in the province have welcomed suggestions that she could be on the shortlist.

As the delays put the Brooke initiative nearly four weeks behind schedule, there is speculation that the two governments will agree a second period of suspension of the Anglo-Irish Conference to enable the process to continue in the autumn.

The initiative had envisaged three phases of talks being completed within ten weeks, but this may not now be possible and instead the process could resume in September after a summer break and following two scheduled meetings of the conference.

A policeman and his prison officer wife were found shot dead yesterday at their home at Maghaberry, Co Antrim. The RUC said that no one was being sought in connection with the deaths.



Rosalie Abella, the Canadian lawyer and former judge, who is being tipped widely as a possible chairman to help to restart the deadlocked Anglo-Irish talks

Buoyant Labour learns from past mistakes

David Lipsey finds that there is substance behind the Labour party's growing optimism

SO FEBRILE is the current political mood that a week or two really is a long time in politics. The state of Labour's frontbench morale last month rivalled that in the party's darkest moments. Thatcher was gone. The Tories had shot Labour's poll tax fox. Interest rates were coming down. Defeat loomed.

Today, the mood could not be more different. The local election results were good, Monmouth was better, and two polls showing Labour first six, then eight points ahead exceeded its wildest dreams. Now the party finds it hard to talk about defeat. It hopes for outright victory, and expects nothing worse than a hung parliament.

Politicians are bad at predicting election results but the scenario which culminates in Labour triumph has been carefully thought through.

The party accepts that it cannot without pause continue to play the national health card. Labour is likely to put it up its sleeve for the summer. However, frontbenchers expect it to come to the fore again, as GP contracts come into force and the medical lobby begins to beat. In an autumn election it would be a potent card.

Labour's immediate aim is to find an issue for summer. Education is a possibility, since the party leads the Tories by 13 points in the latest NOP poll as the best on the issue. However, it is more exploitable, around the start of the autumn term.

Specific issues notwithstanding, Labour's campaign theme has been identified — and shows the party's growing capacity to learn from experience. As one senior Labour figure put it: "In 1987, the Tories offered the politics of prosperity. We offered the politics of compassion — and the people chose prosperity. This time, we offer both."

Hence the party's insistence that beyond pledges on pensions and child benefit extra public spending will depend on growth. Labour's Treasury team, including the former left-winger Margaret Beckett, has remained robust on this despite enormous

shadow cabinet pressure, and it appreciates Mr Kinnoch's firm support.

The name of Mr Kinnoch still haunts the party, however. It has kept Roy Hattersley and Gerald Kaufman from the forefront of its campaign, as their personalities are not *sympatico* to voters. But the party cannot hide Kinnoch and still fears he is not a vote-winner.

This has not, however, punctured its optimism. First, Kinnoch-watchers believe that he is improving, particularly on television. Second, they recognise that he is formidable on the stump, best at the 30-second sound bite. In a head-to-head contest with a prime minister who has hardly campaigned outside Huntingdon, they fancy his chances.

A third reason for Labour optimism is that the recession could mean an autumn election may be premature for the government.

Beyond that, Europe, the issue that bedevils internal Tory politics, may be a banana skin in Mr Major's path. Foreign Office advice to Mr Major is that, procrastinate as he will, fundamental decisions about the single European currency cannot be postponed beyond the turn of the year. If Mr Major adopts overtly European clothing, he will offend his Bruegel wing, which, though small, displays what for Labour are encouraging suicidal tendencies. If he does not, he will have to weather a row, and offend the pro-European elite.

Many in his party would be uncomfortable with an election in which Labour is the pro-European party. That just such an election may be fought is a measure of how far the counter-revolution in British politics has gone in both parties; and how unpredictable is the outcome next time.

PR option for Euro elections

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR enquiry into changes in the voting system is expected to lead to the party embracing proportional representation for elections to the European Parliament, Scottish parliament and a second parliamentary chamber. A report to be issued next month will also leave open the door to electoral reform for the Commons.

Informed sources believe it "highly unlikely" that the internal working party will eventually plump for the abandonment of the first-past-the-post system for Westminster, but keeping the option on the table will suit the leadership's wish both to avoid a split and to respond to the growing party and apparent public pressure for change.

The interim report of the working party chaired by Raymond Plant, professor of politics at Southampton university, will not contain firm decisions. According to sources, however, it is likely to give clear indications that alternative systems might be appropriate for Scotland, the proposed regional assemblies, the European Parliament and the elected second chamber.

Such an outcome would be acceptable to the leadership, including Neil Kinnoch and Roy Hattersley, enabling Labour to promise in its manifesto to introduce a form of PR for the next European Parliament elections and the first poll for the Scottish parliament, an early priority of a Labour government.

The leadership remains sceptical about changing the first-past-the-post system for the Commons. However, it appears ready to accept a different system for the second chamber that will replace the Lords under Labour's plans.

Leadership sources do not accept that agreeing to change for other institutions would mean that PR for the Commons was inevitable in the long term. Labour's PR enthusiasts will regard backing by the leadership for electoral reform for some elected bodies as an important step forward.

Tories hit at praise for Kinnoch

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY MPs last night challenged Neil Kinnoch's fitness to be prime minister in an effort to limit the damage they believe was done by John Biffen's praise of the Labour leader at the weekend.

Mr Biffen, a former Tory cabinet minister, told a television interviewer that Mr Kinnoch was an outstanding leader who had rescued Labour from the margins of British politics and made the party "distinctly electable".

Many Conservative MPs were quick to respond, believing that Mr Biffen's remarks would provide Labour with ammunition for its general election campaign. John Lee, MP for Fendle and a former minister, said: "There is still a massive question mark over Neil Kinnoch. I don't think the vast majority of people see him as prime ministerial material."

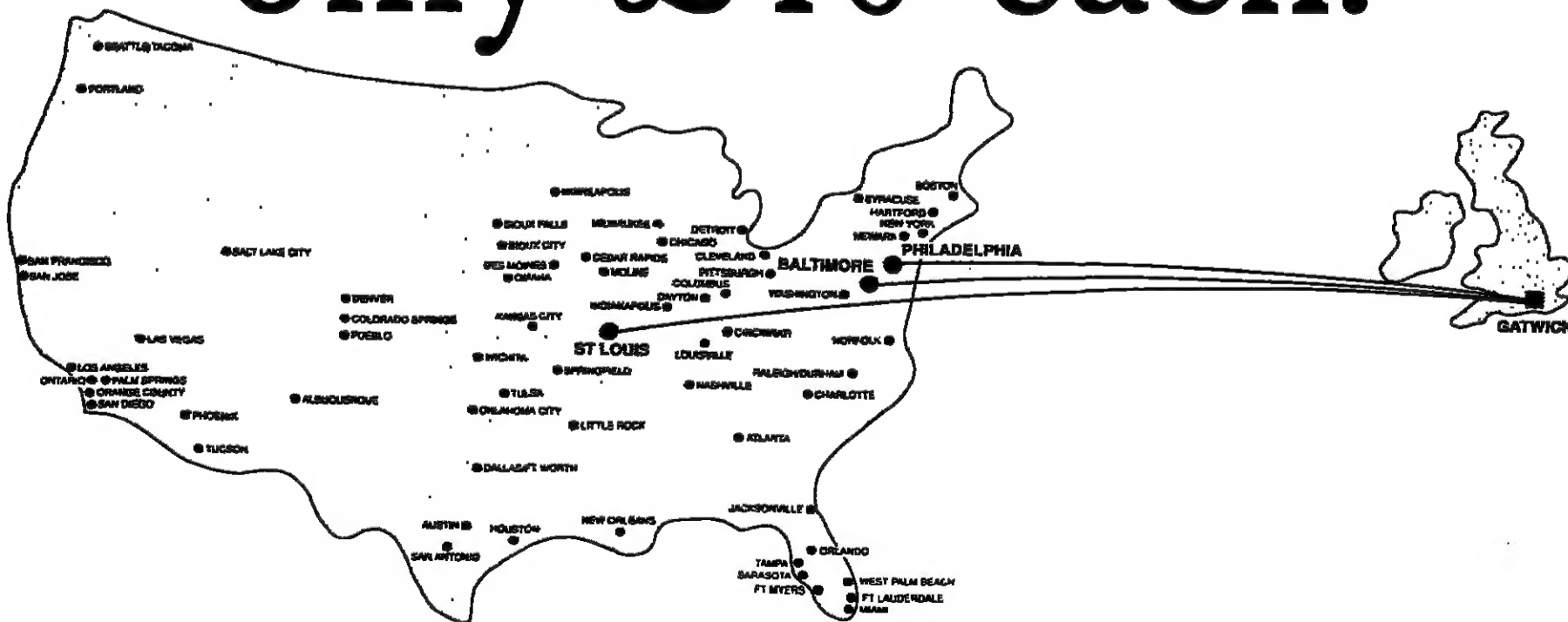
Richard Holt, MP for Langbaurgh, credited Labour's former director of communications, Peter Mendelson, with the revival of the party and the rebuilding of its image. "I don't think it has anything to do with Mr Kinnoch," he said. "He is almost a bystander."

Conal Gregory, MP for York, said: "Mr Kinnoch has devised a cloak to cover the real face of socialism. Underneath the thin veneer, the real truth is a party constitution which would mean the re-nationalisation of major parts of British industry."

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مكتبة من الأعمى

Thatcher tells students to stick with Gorbachev

FROM OLIVER WATKINS IN MOSCOW

MARGARET Thatcher, mobbed by admiring Soviet students at a leading Moscow institute yesterday, told them they should stick with President Gorbachev. "When you have embarked on a great endeavour which is morally right, the important thing is to carry it through until all of the fruits show," the former British prime minister told almost a thousand students, lecturers and professors who had packed into a lecture hall.

"If you have an illness you have to take some pretty awful medicines, which might make you feel not very good. But you go on and persist until you come through to a new healthy society."

SPD sets sights on Bonn

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BREMEN

SIX months after suffering their worst electoral defeat in modern German history, the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) open a party conference here today full of hope that they have found a new chairman who can lead them out of the political wilderness and back to government in Bonn.

The man they will choose by acclamation as party chairman tomorrow is Björn Engholm, the son of a Swedish immigrant family, who left school early, but who rose to become education minister in the last SPD government. Since 1988 he has been prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein, where he led the party to its first ever victory in the state.

Although 51, he still looks young, almost boyish, keeping fit by cycling. A snappy dresser, he enjoys music and modern art. He has turned the SPD in Schleswig-Holstein from a band of no-hangers into the natural party of state government. The conference here will be hoping that he can work the same miracle nationally.

In taking over control of the party nationally he has promised to modernise the old party structures and to give it a thorough shake-up after the demoralising defeat of Oskar Lafontaine, its candidate for chancellor last December. In public, Herr Engholm is on the best of terms with Herr Lafontaine although he is said privately to believe that Germany is not yet ready for his more radical ideas. Herr Engholm wants to modernise, but to do so cautiously in a way that will not antagonise or worry natural supporters.

They gave her standing ovations on her arrival and departure, interrupted her 20-minute speech with applause a dozen times and prefaced their questions with almost embarrassing praise. "I wish we had someone of your class here," one began. "Would you accept becoming prime minister of our country?"

"You have made such a success of your perestroika (in Britain)," another said, using the name given to President Gorbachev's reform programme. "If you stood in national elections in this country, you would win them 10 times in a row."

"She remains one of the leading politicians of our time," said Andrei Stepanov, rector of the institute. Hundreds more students waited outside in the hope of seeing Mrs Thatcher or grappled with security guards at the door. President Gorbachev's former high standing among Soviet intellectuals and students has plummeted with the deepening economic crisis, continuing political confusion and his swing to the right last year on questions of security and separatist minorities in the Soviet Union.

Mrs Thatcher, however, launched straight into a defence of what the Soviet leader had achieved, despite the obvious cockiness of her audience to this point of view. "Please do not underestimate the enormous advances in political terms in the Soviet Union," she told the attentive audience. "What we have now was almost unthinkable six or seven years ago."

She cited freedom of speech, religion and travel. Asked about her once high opinion of Mr Gorbachev, she said it was unchanged. "It looks to me as if the reforms are once again beginning to move forward. That is a reason for optimism," (Reuters)

Gorbachev trap, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Putting in a good word: Mrs Thatcher praising Mr Gorbachev's achievements in a speech to disenchanted Moscow students yesterday

Georgians elect Gamsakhurdia as president

FROM RALPH BOULTON IN TBILISI

ZVIAD Gamsakhurdia of Georgia celebrated his landslide presidential election victory yesterday with a march past of his new National Guard, underlining his rapidly growing power.

President Gamsakhurdia, credited with 87 per cent of the vote in Sunday's first direct presidential election in Soviet history, watched from on high in Dnynamo, Tbilisi's 90,000-seat stadium. About 3,000 supporters, holding candles and chanting "Zviad, Zviad", gathered in a corner to fire their leader's electoral success.

About 1,000 of Mr Gamsakhurdia's National Guard, in green battle fatigues and burgundy berets, goose-stepped past the gathering. A Georgian folk hymn was sung as the crowd stretched out their arms, fists clenched in a victory salute.

Mikhail Didebulidze, an old man with gold teeth and dressed in the traditional costume of grey robes, brown leather riding boots and grey astrakhan hat, kissed an icon of St George at the start of the ceremony. "For the victory of Georgia, and death to communism," Mr Didebulidze, a display horseman, cried. "Georgia has never had such a man as Zviad Gamsakhurdia and we shall never see the like again. God has given us this man and we should cherish him."

Mr Gamsakhurdia's opponents accuse him of heading towards dictatorship, but the president's weekend victory demonstrated that he had the support of the majority. On the other side of the stadium where terraces were sparsely

occupied by National Guard soldiers, a banner exclaimed: "Georgia above all else". The guard's 3,000-strong ranks are made up of young men who by Soviet law should be serving in the Soviet armed forces and plans call for its rapid growth. The Soviet army has denounced the guard as unconstitutional. A former Soviet army officer and guard, Major Avtandil Kuprashvili, said the guard had drawn on the best elements of the Soviet army and thrown out the worst. Arms, he said, were still a problem for the nascent guard. "I personally see two possibilities," Major Kuprashvili said. "Either the Soviets sell us arms or the West should help us."

Mr Gamsakhurdia said the guard's role was to control criminal bands - his term for Ossetian nationalists fighting in the north of the republic against Georgian rule since the Tbilisi parliament revoked the region's autonomy last year. Mr Gamsakhurdia's triumph will increase his authority in conflicts with Moscow over the republic's declaration of independence in April and strengthen his measures to consolidate greater control from Tbilisi on local government. (Reuters)

region's autonomy last year. Mr Gamsakhurdia's triumph will increase his authority in conflicts with Moscow over the republic's declaration of independence in April and strengthen his measures to consolidate greater control from Tbilisi on local government. (Reuters)

region's autonomy last year. Mr Gamsakhurdia's triumph will increase his authority in conflicts with Moscow over the republic's declaration of independence in April and strengthen his measures to consolidate greater control from Tbilisi on local government. (Reuters)

Defeated Suarez bows out

Madrid - Adolfo Suarez, the prime minister who piloted Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy, stepped down as leader of the Democratic and Social Centre (CDS) party after a crushing defeat in local elections.

The CDS, the third force at the last local elections in 1987, saw its vote halved overall and disappeared from sight in nearly all key cities, including Madrid where it has held the mayoralty in coalition with the Popular Party since 1989.

"I believe I must assume responsibility for this result," Señor Suarez, aged 58, told reporters early yesterday. Others blamed his party's defeat on a series of "zig-zagging" pacts with both the left and right. The ruling Socialist Workers' Party of the prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, boosted its support in the poll. (Reuters)

Diplomat killed

London - A British diplomat was killed when his car hit a stationary lorry near Brno, 120 miles southeast of Prague. Nick Saunders-Davies, aged 30, was second secretary in the British delegation to the conventional arms control negotiations in Vienna. (AP)

Dirty dancing

Verona - A Brazilian dancer, Celso De Almeida, aged 37, is suing Rudolf Nureyev for allegedly kicking him, causing injuries that kept him in hospital for three days. According to De Almeida, the alleged assault took place during a dress rehearsal for Saturday's world premier of *Death in Venice*. (AFP)

Eastern Europe seeks cure to culture shock

ARTS ministries and emissaries from more than 30 European countries gather today in Cracow to consider how to save the cultural heritage of eastern Europe. There can be no finer venue across the road they will be able to touch renaissance houses and watch as the mortar crumbles, eaten away by decades of fumes from a steelworks built by the communists.

But the corrosion of national culture in the post-communist states is not only a matter of pollution. The shift to the market and the ending of state subsidies is bankrupting theatres, encouraging publishers to print sex books and thrillers and promoting redundancies in the film industry. Government censors have disappeared, but so has the challenged life of the artist. Communism made culture a professional mission and declared writers to be "engineers of the soul".

Michal Komar, the deputy head of the Polish Czytelnik publishing house, says of the changes: "When I was a student in the 1960s I could read Hannah Arendt's *On Totalitarianism* only under supervision in the military archives. In the 1980s I could read an underground edition, but the print was so bad that I had to use a magnifying glass. Now Arendt is available everywhere, but it is so expensive my son cannot afford a copy."

In Romania the PEN Club says the book market

Cash shortages are corroding an artistic heritage, Roger Boyes reports

is collapsing. "Books and cultural publications are turning into luxury items." In Czechoslovakia last year private publishing houses, printing previously banned books, could reckon on print runs of about 90,000 copies. Anything that dissected recent history was snapped up. Now the market is saturated and publisher Ales Lederer predicts that serious books will sell 5,000 copies at most. The result is a mass of middle-brow Western fiction.

National film-making is going the same way. Only one Polish film is expected to be completed this year. Instead the cinemas jostle to put on *Batman*, *Dick Tracy* and *Superman*. As with publishing, there are some advantages in the new market mechanisms. A publisher can translate, de-

sign, print and distribute a book within five months compared to several years under communism.

The state-owned Barrandov film studios in Czechoslovakia have lost two-thirds of their subsidies and are seeking 2,000 workers. Even the Lodz film studios, training ground for Roman Polanski and Andrzej Wajda, is up against the wall.

The trade-off may not seem unreasonable to Western arts ministers: the end of subsidies in return for the end of censorship may make the artist more vulnerable but it will also drive out the mediocre. However, things are not as straightforward as this. It is not clear that censorship has disappeared. In Poland anything that challenges the teachings of the Catholic church is sensitive. The journalist Andrzej Wroblewski resigned after his discussion programme on the church was dropped.

As the funding of theatres switches from the culture ministry to local councils, so the extent of political interference is liable to increase. Some theatres are trying to avoid this by raising private funds but the long-term answer is a system of tax relief that the Polish government says it cannot afford. Jan Englert, rector of the state theatre college in Warsaw, complains: "The state is treating cultural policy as a communist relic but there must be a plan for supporting culture."



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Fears of bloodbath grow in Addis Ababa as mutinous army jeopardizes London meeting

Dissident troops turn guns on their president's palace

FROM SAM KILEY IN ADDIS ABABA

CITIZENS of Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, were plunged into a state of terror as dissident government forces launched an attack on their presidential palace last night.

For the last week everybody's worst nightmare has been that government troops would jeopardise peace talks between the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front and the Oromo People's Liberation Front. As darkness fell over the city, plunged into total darkness by a power cut, dogs howled in fright as fighting continued inside the palace, occupied by the acting president, General Tesfaye Gibré Kidan.

In the shanties squeezed between the Hilton Hotel and the president's palace and in

most of the rest of the city residents did not light candles or oil lamps in the darkness. Bodies from fighting around the palace on Sunday night were left to fester in the midday sun as dissident government soldiers appeared indifferent to the fate of their own people.

It took 18 hours before the body who was believed to have been a deserter was removed from an alley just five feet from the gates to the Hilton Hotel. Although people here have grown accustomed to such sights and small children gathered around the corpse and stared with almost scientific fascination their parents are terrified that the attack on the palace will plunge the capital into a bloodbath.

Throughout the morning churches were packed with residents praying for peace and the atmosphere was electric as people waited for the outcome of peace talks in London. But the brief hopes produced by news of the agreement were soon extinguished when dissident troops launched their attack in a bid to prevent General Gibré Kidan from surrendering to the victorious rebel forces.

Earlier in the day small groups of youths gathered around the Menelik palace perimeter, buying army boots from the ill-disciplined presidential guard. They also bought AK47s from soldiers and quickly sold them on at about \$60 per rifle.

The palace has been the scene of bitter fighting at night since Sunday when presidential guards deserting their posts were shot by bodyguards still loyal to General Gibré Kidan. Rebel government tanks roared up towards the palace from the west of the city, where two Western photographers narrowly escaped with their lives from a fusillade from machine-guns mounted on the tanks.

These were then turned on the Hilton Hotel, 400 yards from the palace, where hundreds of Westerners and

dreds of Westerners and journalists had gathered. Elsewhere in the city as fighting broke out around the army headquarters to the west, Abraham Fesscha, the BBC's local correspondent here was forced to crawl on his stomach to reach his home.

Townpeople have said for days that the sooner the Woyane, as the Tigrean forces are known, take over the better. The Woyane, who have in the last 10 days captured the whole of Eritrea and Tigre and routes south of the city have earned a reputation for strict discipline.

"A breakdown in law and order and a coup d'état by government forces is the worst thing that could have happened. We hope that they will see sense and put down their weapons so that the Woyane can take over," said a European diplomat.

His prayers were close to being answered as less than two minutes drive from the Soviet and British embassies passed two armoured personnel carriers bearing Woyane soldiers took up position. They were wearing the brand new flying suits from Debre Zeit, the Ethiopian air force base they overran on Sunday morning 30 miles south of the capital.

Rumours that the acting president had either killed himself or been killed in fighting plunged thousands into a deep depression.

The 250 British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens waiting to leave the capital in an evacuation organised by the British embassy were warned to stay in their homes as a small team of special air service plucked those from the most dangerous areas to safety in the embassy compound. Western embassies were yesterday negotiating with the Woyane to allow planes to land at Addis Ababa's international airport to evacuate their nationals. The Soviet embassy managed to fly most of its charges out while at the Soviet embassy there was frantic activity inside.



Voice of moderation: archpriest Solomon Selesse, of the Ethiopian Orthodox church, joining calls for peace outside the Berkshire Hotel, London

Government surrender the only option as talks start

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND JAMES SHIMANYULA IN NAIROBI

AS HERMAN Cohen, the United States special envoy, began his Ethiopian peace negotiations in London yesterday, the 11-man government delegation had little option but to surrender.

While the talks started in the Berkshire hotel, Oxford Street, the insurgent forces camped outside Addis Ababa gave the government forces 48 hours to lay down their arms. Otherwise, they said in a radio broadcast, they would be crushed.

The rebel leaders in London made no public comment, but were clearly elated by their success on the ground, following the departure of ex-president Mengistu Haile Mariam

last week. The largest and most powerful group is the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, led by Meles Zenawi, which is an umbrella group that includes the Tigre People's Liberation Front. They have been fighting for greater regional autonomy for the central highlands and a more liberal government, but appear to have an erratic political ideology.

Having formerly espoused a hardline communism which insisted that Albania was the only true political model, they declared in a political volte-face earlier this month that they no longer sought to establish such a regime. A spokesman said that their leaders had known little about politics, and now wanted a broad-based transitional government to be followed by free and fair elections.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front, led by Issayas Afewerki, has been fighting for 30 years for independence for this Muslim Red Sea province, formerly a separate Italian colony. Eritrea was incorporated into Ethiopia in 1952, and the rebels have received substantial help from Arab countries. The Eritreans' peace plans include international monitoring of a ceasefire, adoption of a federal constitution for Ethiopia in which Eritrea will enjoy self rule and an agreement on the powers of an interim assembly followed by a referendum.

The two main rebel groups have already agreed on self-determination for Eritrea. The Oromo Liberation Front, the smallest of the rebel groups, is fighting for independence of the large Oromo tribe. Founded in 1974, its military activity has been confined to infre-

quent raids. It accuses the dominant Amharic ethnic group of imposing colonial-style domination on the Oromos.

Ethiopian exiles in London said the collapse of the demoralised government made the peace talks almost irrelevant. But they said Washington still had a role to play in avoiding the kind of bloodbath that followed the defeat of the government forces in Somalia and Liberia.

"The new government will need legitimacy. They are facing a bankrupt economy, where law and order are essential," said Isaac Kifle, a university professor who had urged the US to intervene. "They are facing a quagmire, where their entire support has been the backlash against the former government. Otherwise it is very limited."

American involvement in Ethiopia followed the appeals of intellectuals who were anxious that the strategically important country of 50 million people avoid the chaos that was likely to follow the defeat of the Mengistu government. Before the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974 the United States was a close ally of Ethiopia and provided much annual aid to the impoverished nation.

The withdrawal of Soviet support last year from former President Mengistu and the agreement between Washington and Moscow to avoid a new East-West conflict in the Horn of Africa opened the way to benign intervention by the superpowers. The US also played a vital role in persuading the government and rebels to allow the evacuation of the remaining Falashas from Addis Ababa at the weekend.

not endorsed his regime to the long suffering people.

Militarily, the revolts in the north of the country should have been easily crushed, especially when Soviet, Cuban, and East German help was still available. The courage of the rebels deserve admiration. What is less certain is how they will behave after the fall of Addis Ababa: their aims have not always been clear.

But the intention of the rebels can scarcely be to bring anarchy and disintegration of the polity built by Emperor Menelik II (1889-1913) and Haile Selassie. They are now virtually able to dictate terms to the peace conference currently assembled in London.

Having known Ethiopia closely for half a century I hope for a solution that promises stability, peace, and freedom from recurrent famines. The constitution which the UN devised for the autonomous unit of Eritrea within a federal Ethiopia worked well from 1952 until 1962 when it was short-sightedly ended by Aklilu, the then prime minister. Here surely lies the solution: a federal structure for internal autonomous units based, perhaps, on linguistically cohesive elements, such as the Tigrinya-speaking block of Eritrea and Tigre in the north, of the Amharic-speaking centre, and the Oromo regions at the periphery.

Casting aside the ancient civilisation of the Ethiopian peoples in favour of alien doctrines or of ever smaller national units only leads to a constant state of warfare and permanent instability. (The author is Professor Emeritus of Ethiopian Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University)

responsibility for the social upheaval. Now aged 69, she has neither the wish nor the means to return to the suburbs of her childhood which will soon be open to all races.

"I would never go back. There's nothing for me there. For my children perhaps, but not for me. All my friends are gone, they were all scattered by the forced removals. Even if I wanted to go back, I could never afford the prices there now." A gentle and courteous woman, Mrs Vallie looks back with little trace of rancour. "It was a terrible time. Families were torn apart, and many people suffered nervous breakdowns from which they never recovered. You can't forget something like that, but you can't live with hate for ever."

Her daughter, Zubeida, aged 27, a teacher, says racist attitudes remain a block to rebuilding mixed communities. "There is a lot of racial tension, and we are still going to have problems in 'white' areas. It's not that easy for us. It will take years for the community at large to accept what's happening in South Africa." Estate agents report a few Coloured families moving into lower-income white areas of Cape Town, but financial restraints have precluded any large influx. Whites are now buying into the Bo-Kaap, the last Coloured area.

White students now living in the house where Mrs Vallie was born say they welcome the demise of apartheid, and would have no objection to Coloured or black neighbours. David Stanley, a civil engineer living opposite, has reservations. "It's not a case of skin colour, it's a case of standards. The problem is that when people with different cultures move in, areas tend to deteriorate and end up as slums." On the wrong side of the city's railway line, Zubeida Vallie acknowledges such attitudes with a resigned shrug. "Life for my generation will never be the same as it was for our parents before apartheid."

UK firms 'should give aid'

London — British business should donate millions of pounds to ease famine in Africa, Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, said yesterday. He called on the nation's top 1,000 businesses to donate £50,000 each to help the estimated 27 million Africans currently facing starvation (Peter Viterbi writes).

His comments were made as the government announced another 60,000 tonnes of food aid for Africa, and attacked Britain's EC partners for not doing as much. Lynda Chalker, overseas development minister, announced the increase at EC talks.

"The spectre of famine hangs over 30 million Africans. Food shortages are currently estimated at 1.5 million tonnes," she said. Britain was setting an example by providing food aid of twice the British share of an EC-wide target of 200,000 tonnes.

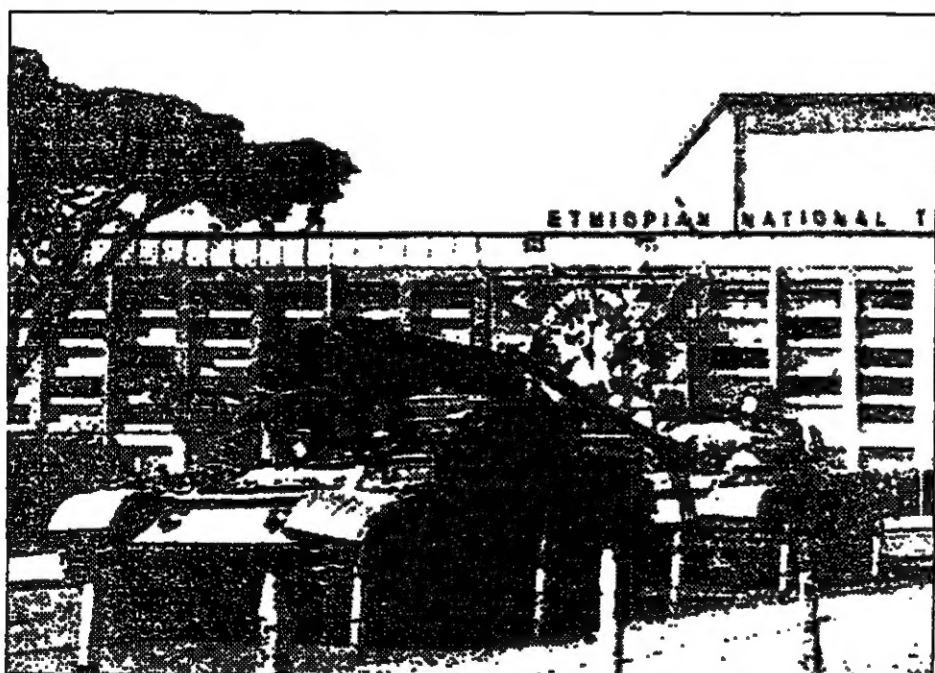
"Today was a day for other member states to stand up and be counted. Some stood up. Some didn't. I hope they will think again and think and act fast," Mrs Chalker said.

Call for trial

Geneva — Former President Mengistu should be brought back to Addis Ababa from Zimbabwe to face a criminal trial, Imru Zeleka, a former trade minister and ambassador under Emperor Haile Selassie, said. He said any peace deal agreed in London should call for the extradition of the former leader. (Reuters)

Plea for food

Brussels — Thousands of people in Ethiopian refugee camps will die unless food and medicine reaches them soon, Médecins sans Frontières, the aid group, said. More than a million people were near death, including 500,000 refugees from Somalia, 400,000 from Sudan and 200,000 Ethiopians. (Reuters)



Storming the palace: dissident Ethiopian troops driving tanks through the streets of Addis Ababa yesterday on their way to attack the presidential palace

Somali towns sink into pit of despair

FROM TIM DEAGLE IN KISMAYO, SOMALIA

THE teenage boy, his small hands tightly clasping the butt of a heavy machine-gun, stood in the back of the truck wearing torn jeans, a brightly coloured T-shirt, two bandoliers of bullets and a pair of fluorescent pink flip-flops. Among a group of equally young and similarly dressed boys, he assumed a suitably menacing pose at passersby in the narrow street.

Opposite him a tall old man, his clothes hanging loose on his emaciated frame, barely supported by wasted legs, pointed to his stomach with one hand while holding the other out towards the people who pointedly ignored both him and the boy.

One month after a fierce battle for this town, which ended in victory for the United Somali Congress against the forces of ex-president Siad Barre, Kismayo has an air of past and impending doom. Three times this once picturesque port, with its modest collection of whitewashed mud-wall houses, dusty streets and tourist hotels has become the front line in this civil war, which has left thousands dead, displaced up to a million and destroyed hundreds of towns.

Partially decomposed bodies lying unburied in the equatorial sun punctuate the sides of the roads leading into

the town. Many soldiers of the United Somali Congress will not bury the bodies of their enemies, preferring to leave them to rot, but the more practical villagers have dug mass graves for thousands of dead, leaving mounds outside at the entrance and exit of almost every village around.

Along the main street, lines of bullet holes pockmark the walls. Twisted piles of metal that were once vehicles block the cracked and pot-holed roads. Above the doors of the abandoned Catholic church

stands a statue of the Virgin Mary, a bullet hole nearly between her uplifted eyes.

There is no electricity, no running water and precious little food and, with the drains and sewers smashed by artillery bombardment, the monsoon rains have flooded parts of the town with a foul-smelling soup. Kismayo is a breeding ground for disease. Malaria, cholera and typhoid are feared and expected. Dysentery has already affected an already weakened and impoverished population that has

begun to swell with returning refugees who fled before the Congress troops took the town. These ragtag groups camp by the side of the road, their few possessions tied up in cotton sacks, and slowly build some form of shelter out of the debris of the battle that still lines the streets. These huts offer some protection from the sun, but none at all from the unbearable humidity or the rains that arrive suddenly and violently most afternoons, washing away the more fragile structures.

Leaders reject northern secession

FROM REUTERS IN NAIROBI

SOMALIA'S interim government has condemned the proclamation of an independent state in northern Somalia and called for it to be reversed. "We would like to make it clear to the Somali people and the world that the northern regions are part and parcel of the Somali republic," Mogadishu radio said, quoting a statement by the council of ministers.

The Somali National Movement, which took control of northern Somalia after the ousting in January of the former president, Mohamed Siad Barre, proclaimed the Somaliland Republic in the

north earlier this month. "These decisions and moves should be considered as against our national independence and the unity of the country," said Mogadishu radio, monitored by the BBC.

A ceremony to hoist the flag of the self-styled republic was held ten days ago at Burao. The interim president, the Somali National Movement leader, Abdirahman Ahmed Ali, said the new state restored boundaries existing before 1960, when British Somaliland joined Italian Somalia.

The interim government in Mogadishu was formed by the United Somali Congress after

its fighters forced Major-General Siad Barre out of the capital following a month-long battle for the city. The Somali National Movement has refused to recognise the United Somali Congress government, which is also fighting other former anti-Siad Barre rebel factions in the south.

Two of those groups, the Somali Salvation Democratic Front and the Somali Patriotic Movement, have rejected the secession. Major-General Siad Barre, somewhere in Somalia with remnants of his army, recently issued a statement saying he was still president of the country.

South Africa moves to abolish key land laws

Gavin Bell looks at the legacy of Pretoria's hated land laws

AMINA Vallie will never forget the sight of her mother closing the door for the last time at their home in Cape Town, bounded out by apartheid legislation that decreed that their suburb was reserved for whites.

"She was very strong. When we got into the car, she never looked back. She even wished the new occupants would have a happy life." A few years later, Mrs Vallie was forced to move with her own family. The site was redeveloped, and all that remains of their 28 years there is an elm tree, planted by her elder son, standing outside a graceless three-storey office building.

The Vallies are among more than 30,000 Coloured families who were uprooted from Cape Town between 1957 and 1980 and moved to townships on a bleak coastal plain several miles from the city. In the same period, more than 3.5 million blacks were herded into tribal homelands by the architects of "separate development".

The impending repeal of the Group Areas Act and the Land Acts, tabled in parliament yesterday, is of little concern to Mrs Vallie even though they were

responsible for the social upheaval. Now aged 69, she has neither the wish nor the means to return to the suburbs of her childhood which will soon be open to all races.

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Elder statesman set to be stopgap leader of Congress

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE ashes of Rajiv Gandhi were carried slowly through the Hindi-speaking heartland yesterday in a white, garlanded railway carriage occupied by the former prime minister's widow, Sonia, and other family members. For all the solemnity, the journey was heavy with political significance.

It became virtually certain last night that P. V. Narasimha Rao would be chosen as the Congress (I) party president, if only as an interim leader until the general election is over next month. He is understood to be willing to accept the post only temporarily because he is recovering from a heart operation. He is a respected elder statesman with

few enemies who held senior ministerial posts, including foreign affairs, under Gandhi and his mother, Indira.

The carriage moved through chaotic scenes at little stations along the way. The windows remained open so that crowds could peer at the flower-covered urn and snatch a glimpse of Mrs Gandhi sitting cross-legged on a mat. The special train was due to reach the city of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh early today. The ashes will be immersed at the confluence of the Yamuna and the Ganges rivers.

This will not be the only place where Gandhi's remains will be deposited. Other ashes, contained in 32 large, copper urns, have been distributed across the country and placed under the control of state leaders of the Congress (I) party. The distribution of the remains will help to keep alive the wave of sympathy that appears to be sweeping through most of the country. Some ashes will be dropped on the Himalayas by an air force plane. The Nehru family originates from Kashmir.

The Congress (I) party's electoral prospects now look brighter than when Gandhi was alive. The attempt to find a leader, if only an interim one until the delayed general election is completed in about two weeks, resumes in Delhi tomorrow at a meeting of the party's working committee, its policy-making body. All signs are that the prospect of power will keep the 106-year-old organisation intact, at least until the election is out of the way, after which the battle for control will become public.

The old guard of Congress (I) clearly has to move aside to save the party from splitting. The new leader will have to be acceptable to the south and the west of the country, where

the party performed strongly in the 1989 election. It was virtually wiped out in the densely populated north, its traditional bastion. The south looks likely to form the backbone of Congress's support again in this election. Tamil Nadu, the big southern state where Gandhi was killed, is set to vote overwhelmingly for the Congress (I) party.

The south and west are staking a claim for a dominant role in the reshaped party as it emerges for the first time from the control of the Nehru dynasty. Sharad Pawar, the chief minister of the western state of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, is making a play for the leadership. He is held in high regard as the leader of one of India's most forward-looking states. Chandra Shekhar, the present prime minister, who resigned from Congress (I) years ago, is making clear his readiness to rejoin the party and take over as leader. He heads a small party called Janata Dal (S), which will win only a handful of seats. He is a northerner.

Police in Madras said yesterday that they had arrested a woman suspected of being an accomplice of Gandhi's assassin. She gave her name as Vasanthi, and told police she was in the area visiting relatives.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan denied yesterday that it had been close to an agreement with India on the disputed Kashmir region before the former president, General Zia, died in a plane crash in August 1988. The foreign ministry said it was surprised by a report in *The New York Times*, which quoted Gandhi as saying before his assassination that such an accord existed. The ministry said the remarks were "entirely unfounded". (Reuters)

Protesters arrested in Tibet

Peking — About twenty Tibetan demonstrators shouted pro-independence slogans outside Lhasa's hottest shrine, the Jokhang temple, in defiance of tight security on the 40th anniversary of Tibet's incorporation into communist China. Two protesters were arrested as police intervened (Catherine Sampson writes).

The report of unrest reaching Peking was the first to emerge from the Tibetan capital during the stage-managed official anniversary celebrations. Foreign journalists were banned from Lhasa during the period, and foreign diplomats were not invited. State television showed pictures of Tibetans singing and dancing but witnesses reported many military and police patrols.

China trade call

Washington — President Bush called for a one-year extension of preferential trade privileges for China during a speech at Yale University. But he asked Congress to restrict the export of high-technology goods to China amid concern about Peking's sale of advanced weapons to Pakistan and other developing nations.

Burma overture

Brussels — The European Community has again told the military regime of Burma that if democracy were introduced and human rights respected the Community would be ready to re-establish relations and offer aid. (AP)

Leading article, page 13

Smart luggage

Hobart, Australia — A robotics company and a luggage manufacturer have signed an agreement to develop a "thinking suitcase". The case would be able to follow its owner in a hotel foyer or airport and find its own way to the right hotel room. (AP)

British team first to reach cyclone island

From AHMED FAZI IN COX'S BAZAR

A TEAM of Royal Navy sailors yesterday became the first relief and rescue mission to reach the island of Manabari, 40 miles off the southern Bangladesh coast at Cox's Bazar, since the cyclone of April 29. About half of the island's population of 14,000 is believed to have perished.

The sailors, using amphibious transports, made their way in extreme heat through mud and marshy land with 40 tons of food, medicine and tents for the islanders, who were starving. Many of them were reported to be on the verge of death.

Even the multinational helicopters that have been dropping food parcels to people offshore were unable to get to Manabari, a tiny, barren island in the Bay of Bengal.

Mike Norman, who led the team, said about 14,000 people, mostly fishermen and

rice farmers, had lived on Manabari before the cyclone, but the disaster had cut the island's population by almost half. Many people, including a large number of women and children, had been swept away by huge waves.

Government officials in Cox's Bazar learned of the islanders' predicament at the weekend but had no means of reaching Manabari. Mr Norman said food stocks on the island were exhausted and that the survivors were barely clinging to life. The team plans to return to Manabari with further relief supplies today.

Royal Navy Sea King helicopters from a British supply ship, the Fort Grange, have been ferrying relief supplies to the coastal villages and islands of southern Bangladesh since earlier this month. An estimated 200,000 Bangladeshis were killed in the cyclone.

Jingoist strikes a chord with Japanese opinion

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

SHINTARO Ishihara, Japan's most outspoken politician who made an international impact with the publication of his books *The Japan That Can Say No* and *Nevertheless, Japan Can Still Say No* has now completed a blistering sequel.

His latest book, *The Japan That Can Definitely Say No*, is another well aimed kick on the shins of Americans and Europeans from the man who claims that "white Westerners" are blinded by prejudice and cultural narrow-mindedness towards "yellow people". They had better take note, he pronounces: in the new age that is dawning, high technology will determine world leadership and Japan will be superior.

Americans emerge in his latest tome as a degenerate bunch, addicted by drugs, alcohol and a false sense of superiority. Mr Ishihara also claims that living standards in Europe today are below those of Japan 400 years ago.

Foreign readers rejected the claims in Mr Ishihara's first two nationalistic outbursts. Japanese diplomats insist that he is "a fringe phenomenon". Yet both his earlier books went to the top of Japan's bestseller



Ishihara: another kick on shins of white Westerners

has a certain visceral appeal in Japan. An opinion poll published last month in the *Yomiuri* newspaper showed that he is the people's second choice to be the next prime minister after Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister.

Mr Ishihara has a knack for identifying explosive

subjects. Much of his latest book is devoted to rubbishing the performance of America's "ignorant politicians" in the Gulf war and redressing the balance for a Japan that he says was wrongly maligned in spite of its "overwhelmingly important role".

On this issue he strikes a chord among his countrymen, many of whom are still fuming that their US\$13 billion (£7.6 billion) contribution to Operation Desert Storm was not well appreciated. Mr Ishihara articulates the attitudes of many Japanese citizens when he writes: "America could not resist fighting the Gulf war in order to realise its own fantasy that it presides over the post-Cold War world."

While on the subject of wars, Mr Ishihara cannot resist a retrospective jab at the victors of the second world war. "If Japan had not gone to war, the modern world would still be under the control of white colonialists suppressing the coloured races," he says.

Indeed, his racial theories and confrontational tactics have won him more friends and admirers around the country than his colleagues in the ruling Liberal Democratic party would like to admit.



Festive footwork: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, laying a wartime ghost to rest in a Greek dance during celebrations on Crete to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle of Crete. Germany invaded Greece in April 1941 and took Crete by an airborne assault one month later

Kurds' autonomy talks falter

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

KURDISH rebel leaders and the Iraqi government have yet to overcome "very significant differences" after three weeks of autonomy talks in Baghdad, a Kurdish spokesman said yesterday. The negotiations were aimed at finalising an agreement that was reached in principle last month.

While both sides insist that progress has been made, Kurdish spokesmen have recently given more cautious assessments of the talks. They say that President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, is still holding out on key issues such as the size of the auton-

omous region, international guarantees and constitutional reforms. The Kurds had previously insisted that only "details" remained to be worked out and last week, Masoud Barzani, the head of the Kurdish delegation, said he believed a deal was possible within a week or two.

Mr Barzani will now return to northern Iraq to consult the Kurdish people before signing any agreement, said Hoshiyar Zebari, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, a coalition of the main groups represented in Baghdad. Mr Zebari could not say

when, or indeed if, a deal would be finalised. "There are very many significant differences which need to be ironed out and this is difficult because there has been so much bloodshed," he said. Both sides needed time to overcome decades of hostility.

Diplomats believe a sheer lack of alternatives will keep both sides doggedly at the negotiating table where they should eventually settle their differences. A political settlement would give Britain, the United States, France and The Netherlands a pretext to pull out of the Iraqi morass.

Israel hints at hostage exchange in Lebanon

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI officials hinted yesterday that there is room for a certain degree of optimism about the prospect of a mass hostage swap involving the return of its missing military personnel in Lebanon in exchange for Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli hands.

Israeli officials insisted that nothing concrete had been decided, but the volume of public statements, both in Israel and by leaders of Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian movement in Beirut, suggested that a deal may be in the offing. Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, said that "there is room for a certain degree of optimism" and emphasised that Israel was willing to go far in its efforts to release some or all of the seven Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

His assistant, Uri Slonim, said yesterday that encouraging statements made in Lebanon could be some form of "psychological warfare", but he added that Israel was maintaining contacts with Hezbollah. The talks could have a bearing on the fate of the 12 Western hostages.

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Once again it appears to be a case of Veni Vidi Vici.

On paper, if anyone



Prime ministers once had to rely on agents' reports and by-elections when deciding election dates. Nowadays the art of election timing is more sophisticated. When John Major asks the Tory chairman, Chris Patten, for advice, he is likely to be given the graphs and equations of an econometric model.

A simple idea lies behind these models. A general election is taken to be a vote of confidence in the government's economic management. If the government is perceived to have got the economy right, it is re-elected; if it has got it wrong, uncommitted voters consider voting for the opposition. The forecast model therefore seeks to establish the enduring relationship between fluctuations in the national economy, as measured by regular economic indicators, and shifts in government popularity, as measured by the monthly opinion polls. This model is then applied to long-term economic forecasts with the aim of establishing a set of formulae of the form "an x% fall in inflation (or unemployment or interest rates) produces a y% change in the government vote".

But the results have been disappointing. The first problem is that models which work for one parliament fail hopelessly in the next. No single formula has worked consistently for as long as a decade, let alone the whole post-war period. One reason is that the electorally significant aspects of the economy change: during the 1966-70 Labour government the balance of payments was crucial; during the 1970-74 Conservative government inflation was the key, while during the Thatcher years, interest rates (among other things) were important.

Secondly, governments, although the servants of economic forces, are the masters of public expectations. For example, a pioneering study in the early 1970s concluded that "for every increase in unemployment of 10,000, the government loses 1 per cent of its popular vote". Had public expectations not been

Hindsight is still our best model

Psephology is never an exact science, says Ivor Crewe



Patten: needs answers

changed, this formula would have left the Conservatives no votes at all in 1983.

A model constructed at Essex University by David Sanders' team claims that 90 per cent of the variance in government support can be explained by just two factors: minimum bank lending rate and personal economic expectations. The latter, Sanders shows, is primarily influenced by interest rates (again) and, to a lesser extent, inflation. The rub is that the model works only from January 1987 onwards, and so only for one general election.

Models change with shifts in the economic agenda, and unfortunately the forecasters have not discovered a way of predicting exactly when this will happen. Interest rates and inflation probably hold the key to the next election, but in December 1986,

one month before a new model was needed (and seven months before the election), it appeared equally probable that personal disposable income was crucial, rather than inflation. As inflation drops, it will also drop out of the calculation; as unemployment rises it may re-enter. What matters to John Major and Chris Patten is when, and the forecasters cannot tell them.

The second problem with forecasting models is the "unexplained variance" — the remaining 10 per cent in the Essex model — which largely arises from "external shocks", when normal patterns of economic voting are disrupted by sharp and unexpected changes in the political situation. The winter of discontent and the Falklands war were examples. Most recently, John Major's succession and the Gulf war have affected political perceptions. The immediate effect, duration and decline of these shocks can be retrospectively modelled, but this amounts to little more than guessing aided by a tiny number of precedents. Mr Major's succession produced a 10 per cent boost, twice that of previous mid-term changes of prime minister. Economic models of elections have a third drawback. They

forecast support for the government party only, although the election result depends, on the gap between the Conservatives and Labour shares of the vote, not just upon the Conservative share. The Essex model forecasts a Conservative vote of 42.5 per cent if by May/June 1992 inflation is 5 per cent and interest rates are 10 per cent. The significance of this prediction depends entirely on how the anti-government vote divides between the Labour party and the minor parties. A vote of 18 per cent or more for the Liberal Democrats and smaller parties (as in the 1970s) would leave Labour with 39.5 per cent — and still in opposition. But a 13 per cent vote for the minor parties (which is what the current polls show) would leave Labour with 44.5 per cent, and put Neil Kinnock into Number Ten. So far, no forecaster has produced a plausible economic model of opposition party support.

The fourth weakness of economic election models has barely been addressed: party preferences can colour voters' economic outlook. On two occasions in 1987, when the Conservative government was in its second year, the primary explanation of the improvements being made in the economy could not have been the primary explanation. This happened in March-April, when the media heightened expectations of an election, and in the final fortnight of the campaign itself.

What probably happened is that anticipation of an election prompted voters to reappraise the parties, so activating deeper party loyalties, which in turn coloured voters' economic outlook. So the imminence of an election needs to be incorporated into the model. Mr Patten could do worse than fly a kite for an early autumn election, just to see how this affects the polls — and the voters' economic expectations.

The author is professor of government at Essex University.

Mary Dejevsky

Gorbachev sets a trap for the West

President Gorbachev is lobbying hard for an invitation to the Group of Seven summit in London this summer to put his case for a grand scheme for East-West co-operation. In simple terms, this means billions of dollars of Western aid for the decaying Soviet Union. There are many reasons why no such invitation should be sent.

First, if Mr Gorbachev's plan were considered unsatisfactory, then the G7 would have to send him away empty-handed. This, however, would bring down upon them the full weight of the Soviet propaganda machine, with its complaints about the hardness of Western hearts. Popular pressure to rescue Mr Gorbachev would increase. The easiest way to prevent such a diplomatic defeat is not to issue an invitation at all. If one must be issued, then elementary research should establish whether the plan is worth a second glance. Details that have emerged so far suggest that it is not.

Despite all the breath-taking about the past, no one at the pinnacle of Soviet power has had the honesty to admit that the system itself has failed and should be ditched. Some of the republics have come to this conclusion, including those that want to leave the Soviet Union, but the central leadership has not.

So the first condition of any large-scale Western aid should be public recognition that the present system has not worked and will not work; the second that the help will be unambiguously termed "aid"; and the third that the aid-giving nations should have a say in how the co-operation plan is implemented. Mr Gorbachev is resisting this. Just last week he complained about "a whiff of the cold war", because the US continued to link trade privileges to changes in the Soviet system.

There is, however, a further reason why the G7 should resist Soviet pressure to "co-operate". This derives from the distinctly old-style methods being employed to ensure Mr Gorbachev's invitation: the threat of what will happen — to East and West — if we turn him down. The most unscrupulous exponent of this argument is Grigori Yavlinsky, the brain behind the new co-

operation project. He argues that assisting the Soviet Union is in the West's best interests, and that the sooner the West helps, the cheaper it will be. Just imagine, his argument runs, the dire consequences for the West if perestroika fails, the Soviet Union starts to disintegrate, and its conflicts start to spill into Western territory.

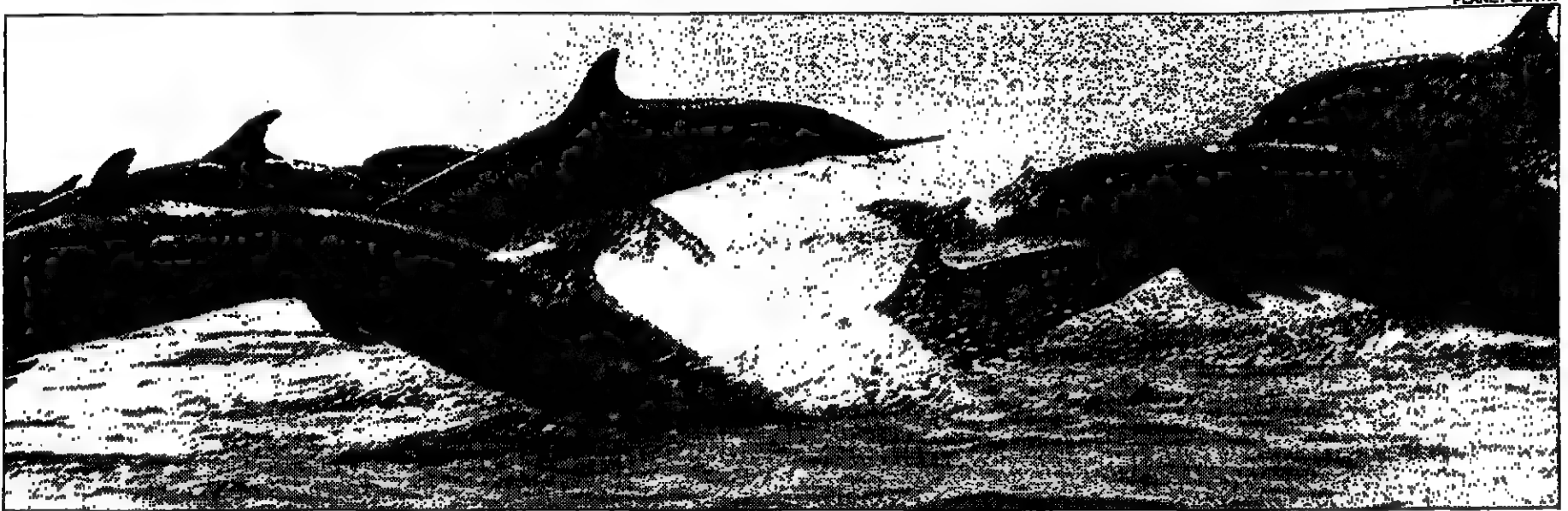
The G7 should not swallow this argument, which is nothing short of blackmail. So far the only violence has been either in areas where there is a tradition of armed conflict (the Caucasus), or when provoked by the central authorities (the Baltic States). A more loosely organised, or smaller, Soviet federation might well lead to better relations with the Soviet Union's immediate neighbours in Europe.

One of the pillars of Yavlinsky's argument is that the West should help before the central structures become so weakened that they are no use in distributing or organising Western help. A comprehensive aid package, he says, will then encourage the republics to look to the centre for help. His words serve only to reveal him as a supporter of centralism. If even he — supposedly the most radical of economic radicals — will not recognise that the cumbersome and corrupt central structures have been a large part of the problem, why should we help the centre at all?

Six republics have opted to abandon the Soviet enterprise by seceding peacefully. In the Baltic States and Georgia, the desire for independence has been established beyond doubt in republic-wide referendums. Other republics, such as the Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan, want a looser federation in which they choose their own economic system — a market system.

The world's seven richest nations must decide whether they want to help those in the Soviet Union whose sights are set on change or those intent on retrieving a unity that is already lost. Above all, they must recognise what they are being asked to do and refuse to be sidetracked by a prediction of a doomsday that may never come.

Sailors are watching the oceans die as a parable of avarice comes true, writes Nigel Hawkes



Schools of fin and fewer dolphins are being seen by yachtsmen, as the massive fishing fleets of Asia and the Soviet Union vacuum the seas

Those who sail the seas alone, with only the birds and the flying-fish for company, have been returning to port with a disconcerting message for the world.

Competitors in the BOC Challenge, the single-handed round the world race, reached Newport, Rhode Island at the end of last month in a mood of gloomy uncertainty. "There has been a massacre out there. The seas are turning to desert," said Kanga Birles of Australia. "They are almost empty of wildlife but it is only idiots like us that seem to be noticing it."

Robin Davis of Britain, who had 20 years of service in the merchant navy before competing in the race, shared Birles' concern. "Apart from an eight-strong school of whales off Bermuda, I saw nothing during the first stage across the Atlantic to South Africa. When I sailed from England to Cape Town and back in 1981-82, there were numerous occasions when schools of dolphins 10, 20 or 30 strong would play around the yacht for hours. Not to have seen a single dolphin from Newport to Cape Town this time is quite simply unbelievable."

Some of the yachtsmen admitted that they had difficulty in filling in forms given them by the Worldwide Fund for Nature to record the different species, because they had seen so few. What they did see, in plenty, were vast Asian, Soviet and east European fishing fleets working the schools off South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Falklands.

Caught in the net of greed

Many environmentalists believe that we are seeing in the world's oceans the unfolding of a classic parable of man's greed: the tragedy of the commons. Where a resource is owned in common, or has no owners at all, competing demands by individuals seeking to maximise their own returns can impoverish everybody by destroying the resource itself.

The problem is not new, as the meeting this week of the International Whaling Commission in Reykjavik testifies. The heroic days of the whaling skippers setting out after the creatures with simple equipment and raw courage are long past; today nobody would dream of writing the great American novel about the hunt for Moby Dick. Hollywood once made films about big-game hunting; now it concentrates on soft-focus weepies about women who go and live with gorillas.

But is the new enlightened attitude any more rational than the old hunting instinct? "Save the Whale" is a nice slogan, but we need to be clear about whether it means saving the species or every single member of it. The IWC was set up to regulate whaling on

scientific principles, not to ban the hunting of every whale. John Selwyn Gummer's anguish at whaling's brutal methods may well be sincere but it is certainly misdirected, for the IWC has never pretended to be the society for the prevention of cruelty to whales.

The scientific evidence suggests that hunting for the minke whale, the smallest but most numerous of the species, could resume without threatening its survival. Even if this week's meeting temporises and imposes further delay, the logic of the IWC is that hunting is permissible if the stocks allow it. The longer whaling is banned, the larger the stocks become, and the stronger the argument for resuming the hunt.

How the IWC resolves the conflict between those who want to regulate whaling and those who want to ban it will have important implications for other species. So far, nobody has launched an organisation to save the cod, though it is a fine species and the methods used for catching it are hardly less cruel than the explosive harpoons that kill the whales. The evidence is, though, that lumber species are at least as much in need of

friends as the great cetaceans, and if we cannot successfully regulate the hunting of whales, we probably cannot prevent the tragedy of the commons taking place in the world's oceans.

Dolphins and porpoises are being killed in huge numbers, perhaps as many as 1.5 million a year, many caught in the long drift nets that are set to catch tuna. Last week, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency claimed that most of the world's dolphin populations might be extinct within our generation, though the truth is that nobody knows how many there are or how quickly they are being killed.

Stocks of fish have also shown worrying declines. Off South Georgia in the south Atlantic, fishing may have to be banned after the disappearance of Antarctic ice fish, for reasons so far unexplained. In the North Sea, haddock and cod stocks are in danger of exhaustion from overfishing, despite restrictions on catches set by the European Community. All around the world, the fishing industry is in trouble. Since the

end of the second world war, the total take of fish has risen from 20 million tons a year to 100 million, which appears to be close to the maximum the oceans can provide. The point may have been reached when modern fishing methods, too efficient for their own good, are destroying whole fisheries by reducing populations beyond the point of no return.

There are two approaches to averting the tragedy of the commons. Conservatives say that the problem arises because ownership of the threatened resource is obscure, so that nobody has the incentive to protect it. Their solution is to fence the common land, establish ownership, and compensate those who are displaced. At sea this is hard to arrange, although the extension of coastal fishing limits to 200 miles provides an example.

Liberals, more optimistic about human motivation, appeal to the common interest as a basis for establishing rules designed to restrain individual greed. In the vastness of the oceans it is difficult to enforce such rules, but there appears to be no sensible alternative.

The IWC is one of the better examples of this kind of international agreement, which is why it is important that it should not be forced to attempt things beyond its competence. The whales will be better protected by a functioning IWC than by the free-for-all that would result from its destruction. Friends of the whale should tread carefully this week.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Adulthood is always advertised as a time when aspiration and ability wait ever closer, when one comes to terms with what one is, and what one will never be, when all is mellow and content. So what went wrong?

From about the age of 17, I have been afflicted by two yearnings. The first is to dress outlandishly. The second is to blend in with the crowd. These two yearnings, as you may imagine, do not sit well together. Whenever I enter a clothes shop, I feel myself drawn to what one might call the novelty items: shirts upon which cowboys and Indians fight it out in a mixture of bright orange and deep purple, green bowler hats, 2 ft by 2 ft, vast leather belts with my name embossed in letters three inches high on the buckle; suits within which four different types of weed contend with awful ferocity for dominance, shoes in colours usually reserved for toys for the under-fives. Somewhere inside of me, in the department marked "Men's Clothing", there is a crazed vulgarian in command, his heart set on decking me out as a cross between Widow Twankey and a firework.

Alas, the neighbouring department of my mind, marked "General Deportment", is run by a sheepish person who blushes at anything the slightest bit untoward.

In the security of the changing-booth, I view myself in the mirror and think what a terrific wag I look, and how the pioneering combination of orange, mauve and vermillion really

rather suits me. Within seconds, I have bought yet another hilarious item that will cause me the most acute embarrassment for years to come as I struggle down the street. Not only am I the man the very sight of whom would have caused King George V to come out in a rash; a sizeable part of me is the king himself, conservative and censorious.

When I was a parliamentary sketch-writer, I once received an invitation from the office of the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, to the annual Christmas party at Number 11 for journalists. I had recently purchased a colourful suit mainly entirely out of a vivid green and red tartan cut-rug. That morning, the crazed vulgarian had insisted that it would be just the thing to add a bit of zing to an otherwise stodgy gathering, and that nothing could better speed the breaking of the ice.

The crazed vulgarian was still in command as I leapt up the stairs at Number 11 two at a time, ready to amuse one and all with anecdotes arising out of my car-rug suit, and it was the crazed vulgarian who confidently entered the upstairs party room with a swagger in his step and a twinkle in his eye. But almost straightaway the civilised burble of sober suits came to a halt and all eyes turned on me, united in collective astonishment that the Chancellor had seen fit to invite a children's conjuror. My confidence turned to dust, and, with one bound, the crazed vulgarian leapt from my body, leaving the sheepish person to fend for himself.

Someone from the Treasury was kind enough to speak to me for a minute or two, and then the chancellor himself shook my hand, his eyes looking me up and down with an expression less suggestive of a warm welcome than of an impending liver complaint. I shut away shortly afterwards. A few days later, the crazed vulgarian in me, once more in charge, was pleased to note that the chancellor had succumbed to my sartorial influence, being pictured in the *Mail* diary at a 1950s theme-party dressed in rocker's uniform reminiscent of Alvin Stardust.

A month or two ago, I was reading Ferdinand Mount's review in the *TLS* of *Good and Faithful Servant*, Robert Harris's biography of Bernard Ingham. With delight, I saw that one of my own remarks about Ingham — that he looks like one of the background soldiers who used to be employed on *Dad's Army* — was quoted. For a second, I felt as if I had become an integral part of the political process, a skilled observer of the Westminster scene and so on. Then I read on. "In turn," wrote Mr Mount, "Ingham described Brown, no less aptly, as looking like Dylan Thomas dragged through a hedge backwards." I had not heard this nugget of abuse before, nor did I realise that Ingham knew what I looked like. But the sheepish person doubtfully had to admit to the truth of his remark, and the crazed vulgarian could not conceal his delight in having been noticed at all.

A question of prestige

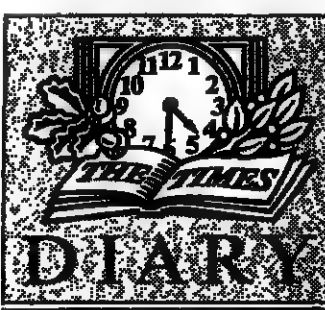
No one will be watching more closely than Peter Sissons today's to-ing and fro-ing at the office of the BBC's Tony Hall, the director of news and current affairs, as nine different companies bid for the jewel of BBC privatisation, *Question Time*. After giving each of the independents an hour, Hall is expected to reduce the list to three, before white smoke finally puffs from the chimney of Television Centre in three weeks' time.

"I am watching with close interest," says Sissons, who has presided over record ratings since the departure of Sir Robin Day last year. "There are very few programmes in the world on which Joe Soap can buttonhole a cabinet minister and tell him he thinks he's lying. It's an important part of democracy."

But whoever wins the 12-month contract to produce the programme will be allowed virtually no room for innovation. The BBC has stipulated that Sissons be retained as presenter together with the current set and theme music. "It is a straitjacket," says a BBC source. "And the successful applicant has to transmit from outside London for 17 of the 34 weeks. This is very expensive. No one is in for the money."

For many of the bidders the prestige of appearing in the programme's final credits is the main attraction.

Two of the companies vying for a slice of that prestige, Brian Lapping Associates and Brook Productions, were last night monitoring each other's final presentations more closely than one might expect. Secrecy was impossible because the rivals share an office in Camden Town.



● Mrs Thatcher's reputation in Moscow is in no small measure founded on her performance in a TV interview in 1987 when she made mincemeat of the Soviet Union's three most prominent political journalists. Now researchers for BBC's documentary series *The Second Russian Revolution*, which starts this Friday, have discovered one of the secrets of that success. Just before the interview, a member of the panel spill a steaming cup of coffee down the front of her trousers, rendering her incapable even of standing up to greet his eminent visitor. Mrs Thatcher is not one to let slip so great a psychological advantage.

Walworth wobbles

Despite the surprise endorsement of John Biffen and the electoral thumbs-up from the opinion polls, the roses in Neil Kinnock's garden are not smelling as sweetly as they should. With reports persisting of a schism in Walworth Road, Labour's communications chief John Underwood has issued an extraordinary denial of reports he is trying to sack his deputy, Colin Byrne. "We are eight points ahead in the opinion polls, we had good council election results, and won Monmouth. I'm not trying to sack Colin Byrne."

Labour sources, however, say that with Underwood's predecessor, Peter Mandelson, taking

credit for Monmouth, amid reports he may return to Walworth Road, Underwood is being publicly undermined.

Underwood has made influential friends by reversing Mandelson's tendency to publicise only cabinet members of the shadow cabinet, such as John Smith, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Margaret Beckett.

But Byrne has friends in high places: he shares a house with Mandelson and Kinnock's press secretary, Julie Hall, who is expected to become his wife later this year. While Labour limits its public funds these days, it seems that in private little has changed.

Negative score

The theft of a briefcase containing the full orchestral score for Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* has sent conductor Peter Clarke into a paroxysm of anxiety as he prepares for the



opening night of the opera at the Holland Park theatre next month. Clarke, who is music director of Court Opera, has spent the last 16 weeks painstakingly writing the English translation to the original Russian into his score. But burglars who broke into his home in Sunbury-on-Thames last week stole the case containing the vital material as well as his rehearsal notes and cues. "It is of absolutely no use to

them at all," says Clarke. "I will have to start again but I would rather have given them every television set in the house."

Steel yourself

As Rajiv Gandhi's ashes were scattered on the Ganges yesterday, Sir David Steel could be forgiven for breathing a sigh of relief that the funeral was better organised than that of Rajiv's mother Indira. In his memoirs, *Against Goliath*, Steel, who attended both ceremonies, recalls chatting to Denis Thatcher in the British High Commissioner's residence before the VIPs departed for Mrs Gandhi's cremation. "I tell you, David," said Thatcher, glass in hand, "it will be one big almighty ball-up."

Later, as Steel clambered on board the VIP coach, he spotted a tiny woman who was in danger of being run over. "I hoisted her into the vehicle and clambered in alongside. She turned to thank me. It was Mother Teresa of Calcutta." On the return journey, the bus in front of Steel's got stuck in the sand. Mrs Thatcher was one of its passengers. "Denis's prophecy," wrote Steel, "which I had thought straight out of a *Private Eye* letter, was amply justified."

● After 40 years designing furniture, film sets and even four-poster beds, David Hicks says he now regrets having included photographs of one of his designs in his first book, *David Hicks on Decoration* (1966). "It was a cheap office I did for a frying pan company," he says. "It was way over the top. I would like to buy every copy and tear the photographs out." Hicks, who currently has a retrospective of his life's work at the British Interior Design Exhibition in London, also laments the glut of competition in the business. "Every other divorced woman seems to have a card saying she is an interior decorator."



MISSIONARY IN MOSCOW

Margaret Thatcher need look no further than Moscow for her new role. At a speech there yesterday, a thousand students and dons gave her the kind of reception she would never receive at a British university. Several questioners asked Mrs Thatcher whether she would consider taking over as their prime minister: a little awkward for her, since she is meeting the present incumbent, Valentin Pavlov, today. As a private guest of her old business acquaintance Mikhail Gorbachev, Mrs Thatcher was scrupulously polite about her host, though in private she has voiced sharp criticisms of the Soviet president's policies. What, though, is the reason for her red carpet treatment?

The easy answer is to suggest that President Gorbachev and his countrymen may not understand the nature of Mrs Thatcher's loss of power six months ago. After all, Eduard Shevardnadze is still acting as an unofficial emissary for Mr Gorbachev several months after resigning as foreign minister. Sometimes former leaders are almost as powerful as those in office: the former prime minister Noboru Takeshita remains Japan's chief power-broker. Might the Kremlin believe that Mrs Thatcher exercises a similar influence?

Almost certainly not. It is well known abroad that in Britain loss of office has an immediate and unequivocal effect on a politician's status. On a visit to Munich in 1932, Winston Churchill (who had then been out of office for three years) wanted to meet Adolf Hitler, whose party had recently outstripped its rivals. Hitler refused, asking: "What part does Churchill play? He is in opposition and no one pays any attention to him." In the short run, Hitler was right.

Mr Gorbachev is not sentimental enough to treat Mrs Thatcher as though she were still in office just for the Russian equivalent of auld lang syne. His regime is now in urgent need of new loans from Western governments, especially the United States. Figures in excess of 100 billion dollars have been

floated. No foreign statesman carries more weight in America than Mrs Thatcher. Her endorsement is a useful weapon, both in Mr Gorbachev's efforts to convince Washington that he has not sold out to the hardliners, and in domestic politics.

Mrs Thatcher must be assumed to have too much political nous not to have grasped what Mr Gorbachev is up to. She is sure that his weakness has always been operational rather than ideological. His lack of qualified advisers, his isolation on the lonely heights of the Soviet bureaucracy, have always impressed her as more potent causes of the manifest failures of perestroika than the Soviet president's own incomprehension of democratic capitalism.

Mrs Thatcher is evidently confident that, despite her humiliation at home, the *Zeitgeist* is on her side out East. Her task in Moscow, as she sees it, is to persuade Mikhail Sergeyevich not to be a backslider. One idea which she has come to symbolise around the world — using privatisation to relieve the state of the burden of running the economy — is still high fashion in Moscow, despite the painful experiences of many people in the Wild West which parts of Eastern Europe are becoming. She is using the courtesies which are extended to former leaders, not to play the part of an elder statesman, nor even an honest broker, but to broadcast her vision.

She has chosen Moscow to relaunch herself as a crusader for capitalism. Crepuscular celebrities — most recently Richard Nixon — are regular visitors there. But Mrs Thatcher's luminosity has not yet dimmed in the eastern sky. To exploit her appeal as a missionary is in her own interest. It might also be in the interest of the Soviet peoples. The adulation for Mrs Thatcher in Moscow is a reminder of the enduring power of the idea of political and economic liberty. If he wants to regain his popularity, Mr Gorbachev must return to the radicalism which once earned him her admiration.

A COUNTRY IN PRISON

Governments routinely deal with dictators who claim to represent their people, and whose claim cannot be flatly contradicted because they have suppressed all avenues of dissent. Should they also deal with a dictatorship which has been unequivocally rejected at the polls by 82 per cent of its electorate? That vote, exactly a year ago, makes Burma unique: the odious State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which at the time conceded defeat and promised a swift handover of power, is plainly illegal.

The SLORC, a small group of military officers, was born in blood in 1988. Its first act was to suppress peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations by millions of Burmese against the 18-year-long dictatorship of General Ne Win, killing more than 3000 protesters and arresting thousands more.

The "new" regime, guided from the shadows by the officially retired Ne Win, was so confident in its apparatus of internal terror that it allowed political parties to form and promised parliamentary elections. By then, Burmese had found a democratic leader, Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of one of Burma's leading figures at independence. Although she was placed under house arrest in July 1989 and later barred from standing in the May 1990 elections, her National League for Democracy survived every form of intimidation and the most grotesque manipulation of the campaign itself. The SLORC made the rare mistake of allowing a fair and free vote. Its own front party was annihilated and the League won a triumphant 392 of the 485 seats.

After initially accepting the verdict, the SLORC has systematically destroyed not only the result, but the forces behind it. A quarter of the elected MPs are in prison, in exile, or have disappeared. Some 500 League officials have been jailed. Last November, the rump of its leadership was forced to sign an agreement effectively nullifying the elec-

tion. It gives the army sole right to draft a new constitution before handing over. In December, the League was outlawed.

Mrs Sun Kyi, a persistent advocate of nonviolence, remains under arrest without charge. The SLORC has broken the League's urban support. The use of informers, mass arrests and torture is commonplace. Whole neighbourhoods in Rangoon and other cities have been demolished. Perhaps half a million of their inhabitants have been dumped, destitute, in the countryside.

Since 1988, Western governments have suspended aid to Burma, but the SLORC has found ways to finance its repression, and not only through booming opium exports. Thai logging companies have been sold enormous concessions in Burma's hitherto well managed teak forests, containing four-fifths of the world's remaining teak, which could now be stripped within five years. Western companies continue to sign trade and investment contracts in Burma, paying over "signature" money which further enriches the SLORC's coffers. While ordinary Burmese get even poorer, such deals are paying to expand the army from 200,000 to a planned 500,000 and to buy £600 million worth of arms from China.

Burma survives thanks to these foreign deals. The West should not stand by until the next, inevitable, explosion of an imprisoned people. Companies dealing with Burma should be made ineligible for export credits. The West should press the Thai government to end the teak trade and, meantime, boycott teak imports from Thailand (which has almost none left of its own) on environmental grounds. At the United Nations, the West should call for a global embargo on arms sales to Burma. Such pressures cannot be decisive, but could yet split the army, whose troops voted massively for the League a year ago. Burma's democracy-in-waiting should at last be given decisive international support.

FAIR PLAY FOR BLACKS

The sight of Gloucester-born David "Syd" Lawrence roaring in to take four West Indian wickets in yesterday's one-day international was a cheerful reminder that, in one sphere at least of our national life, colour is no bar to achievement. At least five black and Asian Britons — Lawrence, Chris Lewis, Philip DeFreitas, Mark Ramprakash and Devon Malcolm — are candidates for the English Test XI.

Cricket is not exceptional in this regard. England's football teams against the Soviet Union and Argentina last week called on 19 players, four of whom have Caribbean roots. In athletics and boxing, the involvement of blacks at the highest level is even more marked. In the explosive athletics events — the sprints, jumps and javelin — Linford Christie, John Regis, and Tessa Sanderson are genuine national stars. In boxing, where even the best black boxers used to be hard to sell, Frank Bruno, Chris Eubank, Nigel Benn, Michael Watson, Lennox Lewis and Colin McMillan now command the public following which encourages television and sponsors to pay handsomely when they fight. In both codes of rugby, blacks make a tremendous impact: Jeremy Guscott and Chris Oti in rugby union, Ellery Hanley and Martin Offiah in rugby league.

Their success helps to obscure the hurtful truth that there is still racism in sport. The abuse directed at black cricketers at Leeds and Scarborough and black footballers at West Ham and, again, Leeds has not vanished. And there is still exploitation: the hype and the hatred used in the promotion

of Benn would surely not have been inflicted on a white boxer.

Successful black jockeys have been thin on the ground. The standard excuse, that black people weigh too much, is of doubtful accuracy and does not explain why black riders are if anything less common over the jumps, where the weights carried are two stone higher. Black men do not row for Oxford or for Cambridge. Nor are they generally to be found behind the wheel of a grand prix car or in the leading ranks of British professional and amateur golfers.

Elements of racism enter into some of these cases. However, there are more prosaic explanations. Black people tend still to come from poorer families in inner cities; hence, they have less chance in those sports which require expensive equipment, and for which public facilities are scarce. Black people do not yet find it as easy to get to Oxford and Cambridge as their white counterparts. There are, moreover, factors such as individual choice of sports, reinforced by tradition and peer pressure. Eton fives is an admirable game, but little played outside the British public school.

There is further to go, but the progress is heartening. It has not been achieved by quotas, or by bureaucratic controls or even by positive discrimination. It has come about because sport is nothing unless it involves the will to win, whether of individuals, clubs, counties or countries. The team that does not pick on merit will be, ultimately, a loser. A more potent force for equal opportunities is hard to imagine.

Flaws in Soviet emigration law

From Professor Rosalyn Higgins, QC
Sir, The new Soviet legislation on emigration (report and leading article, May 21), while an improvement on the existing law, is still incompatible with the Soviet Union's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 12 of that treaty stipulates the only permitted grounds for limiting the right to exit — namely restrictions which are "necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others".

Under the new law a person may be refused a passport "if he knows information comprising state secrets". That term is not defined, but it is clear from the text that persons working in a wide range of jobs, including educational establishments, may be deemed to know "state secrets"; no attempt is made to relate such knowledge to any threat to state security. Persons may now be required to contract in to giving up the right to travel for five years; and this period can be extended indefinitely.

The Soviet authorities are well aware that the legislation is not viewed by experts as being compatible with the covenant. These facts should weigh heavily with those whose responsibility it is to decide whether the Soviet Union should host the Helsinki follow-up conference in September, or receive most-favoured-nation treatment.

Yours faithfully,
ROSALYN HIGGINS,
4 Essex Court, Temple, ECA.
May 22.

Victims of stress

From the Director of Victim Support
Sir, The distress experienced by children giving evidence in court ("Ordeals that can humiliate children", May 21) is unfortunately all too familiar to Victim Support, the national charity which helps crime victims.

Last year, we set up a three-year research project based in seven crown court centres to offer information, advice and support to victims and prosecution witnesses. A pre-trial familiarisation visit, where the child has the opportunity to see an empty court room, stand in the witness box and practise the oath, often dispels much of its anxiety.

On the day of the trial, the child is accompanied by a volunteer who arranges a separate room and can go into court with the child.

In four of the seven court centres, we help to familiarise children with the video-link facility. The project, which is partly funded by the Home Office, comes to an end next year. If an assessment by researchers from Birmingham University proves favourable, it is hoped that consideration will be given to continuing the service and extending it to other courts.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN REEVES, Director,
Victim Support,
Cranmer House,
39 Brixton Road, SW9.
May 21.

Washed up in Norfolk

From Mr P. W. M. Copeman
Sir, Not solely newscasters must beware local pronouncements of place names (letter, May 17). These may change with time, as do their spelling.

When a boy before the first world war my father in his native Norfolk lost his way when bicycling near South Repps and North Repps. Retracing the route half a century later, he precisely instructed me to call from the car window for directions to "Surrups" and "Norruips" — blank looks! — they were now to be pronounced as spell.

You'd travel hopefully but unsuccessfully were you to need help on the road to a nearby Northumberland village, Ugham, if you failed to enunciate it "Uffam".

Yours faithfully,
PETER COPEMAN,
Abshiel Farm,
Morpeth, Northumberland.
May 21.

From Mr R. C. Ormiston-Chant

Sir, During my apprenticeship at the Great Western Railway factory in Swindon I was told that I would be a "Swindonian" when I correctly pronounced the village names of Tregrove (Treggoose), Bincknoll (Binyl) and Baggozie (Baggoys).

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ORMISTON-CHANT,
17 Rosefield Avenue,
Manchester.
May 17.

Bulgaria and the KGB

From Mr David Phillips
Sir, Whatever the degree of collusion, if collusion there was, between the Bulgarian secret police and the KGB over Mr Mehmet Ali Agca's attempt in May 1981 to assassinate the Pope (report, May 21), one is surely entitled to be sceptical as to the evidential value of any secret files put at the disposal of foreign investigators ten years after the event. However, there is certainly circumstantial evidence linking the murder in London of the Bulgarian dissident author, Georgi Markov, with the KGB (report, May 13).

In August 1978, a few weeks before Georgi Markov was assassinated, the head of the KGB, General Yuriy Andropov, visited Sofia for discussions with the Sofia leadership. The Bulgarian secret

A stronger voice for business creditors

From Mr Muir Hunter, QC

Sir, As a member of the Insolvency Law Reform Committee ("the Cork Committee") and part-author of its report (1982 Cmd. 8558), I warmly commend your leading article of May 20, "Saving sick businesses".

One of the terms of reference of the committee was "to suggest possible less formal procedures as alternatives to bankruptcy and company and winding-up proceedings". Many of our recommendations were directed specifically to the avoidance of unnecessary or unjustified insolvencies, leading to the destruction of going concerns. We were inspired not merely by the American "Chapter 11" precedent, but also by the collective experience of our widely representative committee.

The actual "liquidation" of an industrial or commercial entity, with all its component elements of working capital, both human and material, represents a significant diminution of our national resources of productive wealth and this, in the present economic climate, is tragically wasteful. Expensive process machinery, on the one hand, and the accumulated skill and experience of the work-force, on the other, are (in the absence of an adequate and successful "living down" operation) all too frequently dispersed into scrap metal and unemployment queues.

The new or improved remedies now afforded by the Insolvency Act 1986 depend for their effectiveness not only on the professional skill but also on the motivation of the accountants under their differing insolvency practitioner labels, and of their masters, the leaders of cash capital. They also depend on the thought processes of the general body of creditors and on their ability to control the practitioners' decisions.

The Cork committee received in evidence many conflicting opinions as to the extent to which, if at all, the creditors should have an enforceable voice in such administrations, especially by administrative receivers for debenture holders.

Administration orders have already played a useful part in "rescue procedures", but I do not think that "the national interest" in such rescues has yet been sufficiently recognised by Parliament, by the judiciary, or by the commercial community.

Yours faithfully,
MUIR HUNTER,
3/4 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1.
May 20.

From Mr J. M. Fletcher

Sir, Much of the thrust of your leader represents a conflict between hope over reality. Licensed insolvency practitioners — who, by law, must now be licensed by recognised professional bodies — are independent professional people who must

Inflation and M3

From Professor Wynne Godley
Sir, Mr Nicholas Ridley (May 25) is attempting to perpetuate the dangerous myth that in the early eighties there was a monetarist miracle which was subsequently betrayed. His claim is that there was a big reduction of inflation between 1980 and 1983 and that this occurred because the money supply had been brought under control.

But money growth was not brought under control in the early eighties. The growth in M3 actually accelerated between 1978-9 and 1981-2, and although it fell back a little in 1982-3, it was still higher than it had been in 1978-9, immediately before Mrs Thatcher came to power. Moreover, money growth in the early Thatcher years was above the top of its target range in all years but one; it was enormously above the target range during Mr Ridley's halcyon period.

It is extremely misleading to use no stronger word, of Mr Ridley

Marital contracts

From Mr E. J. Windham-Bellord
Sir, Aunt the Law Society's call for a legally binding marriage contract (report, May 16). We used to have one which dealt clearly with all aspects of married life until our legislators decided it was not legally binding at all. It was called "the marriage vows" and they were made and signed publicly before witnesses.

Any new "legally binding" contract would soon turn out to be as subject to review by the vagaries of fashion and circumstance as was the old.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
EDWARD WINDHAM-BELLDOR,
The Cottage, Chiddingfold,
Nr Wincanton, Somerset.
May 16.

police would not have been able to move against dissidents living abroad without a go-ahead from the KGB, and it seems likely that the cases of Markov and of Vladimir Kostov (target of an assassination attempt in Paris in 1978) were raised with Andropov on this occasion.

Andropov would then have seen that by sanctioning the murder of Markov and of Kostov (who survived the attack on him in Paris) he would be ridding the Sofia regime of embarrassing and potentially dangerous opponents, while at the same time alienating Bulgaria, which in 1978 had made its first very tentative approaches to the West.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

'Gold standard' for science levels

From Mr Peter Hughes and others

Sir, As teachers of science in independent schools, we welcome the introduction of alternative vocationally-orientated courses alongside A levels. However, we are concerned at the recent suggestion made by distinguished scientific and professional bodies (and apparently endorsed in your leading article of May 21) to amalgamate the vocational and the academic routes. There is a danger that such a move would deter those students who clearly flourish in the academic atmosphere provided by existing A levels.

We support the assurance that the government has given us in *Education and Training for the 21st Century* that the "gold standard" of A level will be retained. We hope that outside pressures will not debate this standard to 18 or even 9 carat gold. Our prime concern is to attract and stimulate highly motivated scientists into our sixth forms.

If, by changing the nature of existing courses, we put off these highly academic students, we will not be advancing the cause of science education in this country.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HUGHES (Westminster),
HUMPHREY BERRIDGE (Wellington),
PETER CATTAMORLE (Winchester),
COLIN CHAMBERS (Bolton),
JOHN FURNISS (Shrewsbury),
TIM HERSEY (Harrow),
FRED MARSDEN (Tonbridge),
DAVID NEWMAN (Charterhouse),
TERENCE FENDRED (St Paul's),
PETER ROBINSON (Rugby),
MICHAEL SHEPHERD (Malvern),
BOB STEPHENSON (Eton),
BRIAN WALLIS (Marlborough),
IAN WILLIAMS (Halebury),
MICHAEL WINTERSHILL (Cheltenham),
Westminster School,
17 Dean's Yard, SW1.
May 22.

Village homes

From Mr Andrew Williamson
Sir, Patrick Foran (May 21) argues that emerging arrangements to provide lower-cost housing in villages will be unworkable in the longer term and suggests that lower-income people should not have prior rights in the housing market.

The point that eludes him is that a disturbing number of people in villages have no home at all. It is not a case of local people having a prior right: it is a case, as in cities, of insufficient homes being provided at the right price for the people that need them.

I welcome the government's present initiative in villages. It increases the supply of lower-cost housing and restores a degree of balance in housing investment between town and country. Further, if tax relief on mortgage interest were dropped more homes could be provided for those of slighter means.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW WILLIAMSON (Director),
The Sutton (Hastoe) Housing Association Limited,
Hartlequin House,
7 High Street,
Teddington, Middlesex.
May 23.

Charities under fire

From Mr Marc Gordon
Sir, Your leader, "Faith, hope and politics" (May 17), is mistaken in arguing that the International Freedom Foundation (IFF) is campaigning for an "interventionist solution" to the growing problem of the political abuse of charitable status by bodies such as Oxfam and Christian Aid.

You may or may not be correct to believe that politics is becoming more involved in all aspects of human activity, including charity, but charities are strictly prohibited from using tax-deductible moneys for political activities.

Second, we have an imperfect market in charities because many receive a massive direct subsidy from the overseas aid budget (in Oxfam's case £13 million last year). Your argument, if logically extended, would justify the state funding of political parties and pressure groups, including the IFF.

People can choose not to donate to political charities only if they are fully informed of their activities. Oxfam and others do not send out fund-raising letters calling for support for a campaign against the arms trade or to build prisons in Nicaragua, but always with an emotional appeal to help the starving and suffering.

Yours faithfully,
MARC GORDON (Director),
International Freedom Foundation,
Suite 300, Chesham House,
150 Regent Street, W1.
May 21.

Sea fever

From Captain I. W. Powe, RN (ret'd)
Sir, When, in a little over a week, your columns carry letters from four Captains, RN, covering British Rail (May 20), Bangladesh and the NHS (May 22) and Spanish rights to Portland Bill (May 16) one feels there may be more to the Silent Service than quietly to bask in the Mediterranean sun, as I am, with a glass in one hand, *The Times* in the other and hoping to make it five in a fortnight.

Yours faithfully,
IAN POWE,
Pseumatismenos, Cyprus.
May 24.

arbitrarily to select, for his inflation comparisons, May 1980 (a peak) and May 1983 (a trough). The acceleration of inflation in the year ending May 1980 was largely the direct and indirect result of the rise in indirect tax rates which the government itself had imposed.

Whatever it was that produced the May 1983 trough, it wasn't the money supply. In any case, the 1983 deceleration was momentary; inflation was back to 7 per cent in 1985.

It is true that inflation fell right back in 1986, but this was surely the result of a 7 per cent fall in import prices combined with unemployment in excess of three million. It can hardly have had anything to do with M3 which, having grown at an average rate of 14 per cent since 1979, grew by 16.4 per cent in 1985-6.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Applied Economics,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.
May 26.

NHS reforms

From Dr C. Nemeth
Sir, Your correspondent (May 15) considers it reasonable for consultants in NHS hospitals to refer "interesting" cases between themselves across the lines of administrative boundaries and avoiding the new contracting process between suppliers and providers of clinical services. This concept perpetuates the myth/arrogance of the superior clinical acumen of consultants over family doctors.

Surely the old adage applies that the specialist knows the disease, but the GP knows the patient, and thus the family doctor should be allowed to refer patients appropriately.

Yours faithfully,
C. NEMETH,
10 Harley Street, W1.

from the rest of the world. Earlier that year there had been signs of a nascent dissident movement in Sofia itself.

In any case, the poison used to kill Georgi Markov — ricin — was not manufactured in Bulgaria, but elsewhere in the Soviet bloc, which again points to KGB collaboration with the Bulgarian authorities.

It cannot be ruled out, of course, that the KGB were directly responsible for Markov's murder, although the several warnings Markov received before his death from the Bulgarian consulate in Munich implied at the very least Bulgarian collusion.

Yours truly,
DAVID PHILLIPS,
1 Post Office Cottages,
Shottenden,
Canterbury, Kent.
May 23.

Natural fruits of the loom

Liz Smith reports on the green shirt (fashioned from banana or pineapple fibre), the revival of the feminine shirt (cut to cater for curves) and other twists in a classic tale



Workshop's soft linen shirt

Great shirts are made along two lines. There is the clean-cut, mannish classic, generously sized and worn with a certain swagger. Katharine Hepburn stamped this kind with her special brand of offhand elegance in the Thirties. Marilyn Monroe gave it sex appeal in the Fifties.

Now it is back in fashion, looking bigger and better in a fresh, plain white cotton or a revived flower print, and worn loose over leggings or Capri pants.

Top designers around the world have borrowed the classic details of the big shirt, adding the razzmatazz of an exotic print or a colourful organza, and translated it into a loose jacket or stylish evening coat. The washed-silk unisex shirts by Equipment that Joseph Ettedgui has been selling in a tempting spectrum of 24 colours, became such a fashion staple that he has opened another London shop (at 26 Brook Street, W1) devoted exclusively to the range.

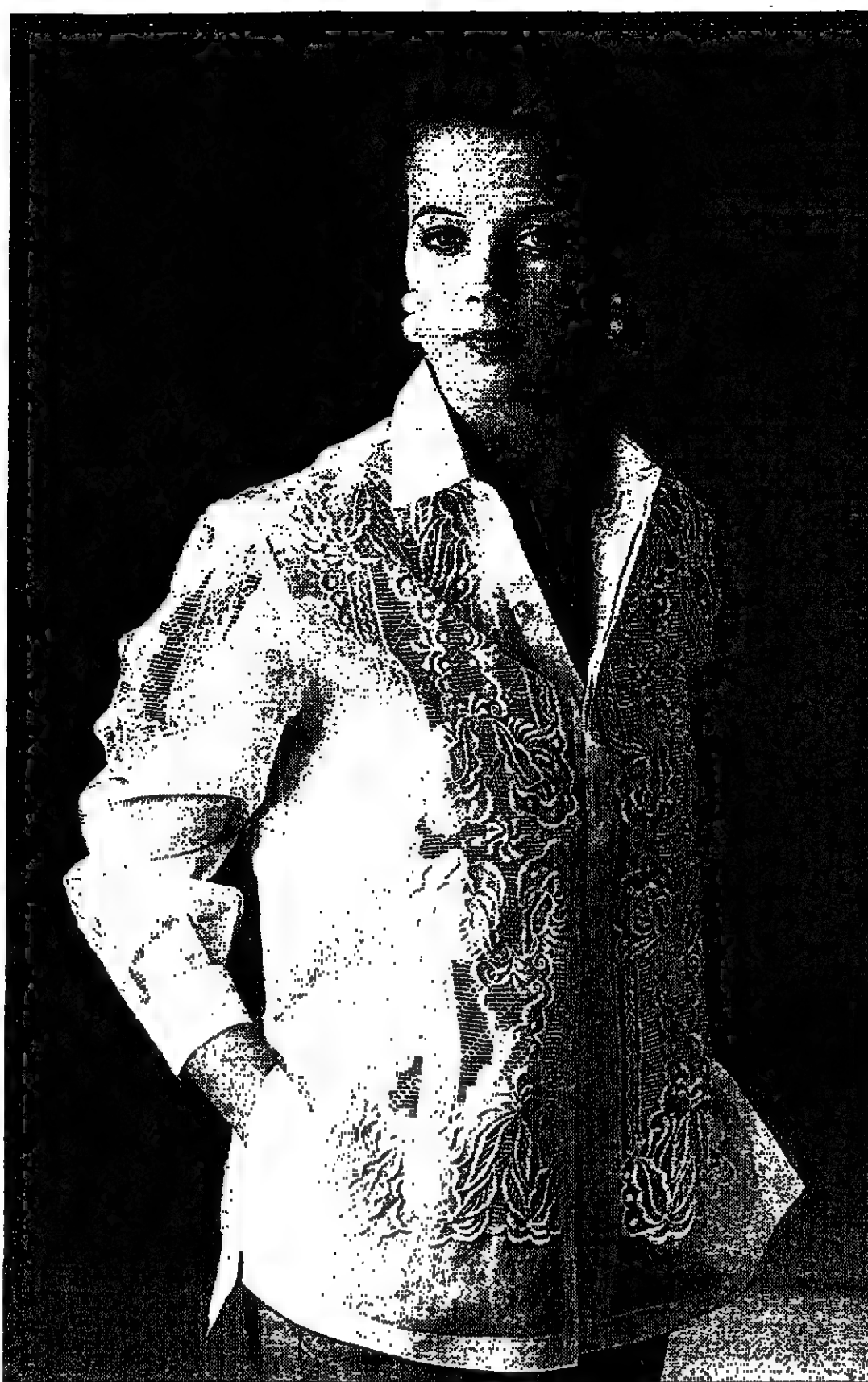
Then there is the other kind of shirt, the fit and detailing of which is exclusively feminine, with a flat, rounded collar or a stand-up band. Curves are cleverly catered for with inset panels and even (although purists would tut-tut) bust darts. The Sloane Ranger favourite of a decade ago, with a single ruffle at the neck, a style favoured then by Lady Diana Spencer, is an endangered species and the word blouse is almost extinct. But the

feminine shirt is making a surprise comeback as a fashionable top that is less expensive than many summer jackets.

Douglas and Harriet Free are among the shirt specialists enjoying an unexpected boom. Mr Free set up Workshop Shirtmakers ten years ago, selling direct to customers, men and women, in their offices. His wife joined him when they married four years ago, and they now do a brisk business with a glossy mail-order catalogue launched in 1988. Of the 16 styles shown in the catalogue, all in 100 per cent cotton or linen, 15 are for women. Details of the classic men's business shirt are tucked away on the back page.

The average order is for two to three shirts. The market profile is high, described by the Free as "Lady Snodgrass and several HRHs". Mr Free saw a gap in the market when he opened a shop in Knightsbridge selling Puffa padded jackets (another upmarket staple) and discovered that the ruffe-necked shirts outsold everything else in his shop.

Lady Snodgrass's daughter is also a customer, and wears Workshop's best seller this summer: a loose, white linen shirt called Milan. Female barristers order Highlander and Blenheim, both high-collared in white-on-white striped or checked cotton to wear with the obligatory courtroom black. A tiny-sized shirt in colourful Madras-style checked cotton



Banana-fibre organza shirt, embroidered and fashionably green, for men or women, by Shirtmaker

sitting on Mr Free's desk was made for their two-year-old daughter, Philomena, and is the basis of a planned new line for children.

The shirts are made in Londonderry and Lurgan, in Northern Ireland, in the finest cotton chambray, Oxford pinpoint or two-fold cotton (two threads are wrapped together in this weave to give it a firm, silky feel). Styles are dictated by customer response. Apart from

Milan, favourites this summer include Rimini, a shawl-collared, short-sleeved shirt in plain linen or a fresh carnation-print linen, and Cadogan, a softly styled classic with a flat collar and pocket flaps. The much-mocked ruffe shirt is still in production in plain or striped cotton. The latest version is a stylish double ruffe. Prices average from £45 to £50, with a top price of £65 for Milan in a fine Italian linen.

The first Workshop shop opened last year in Cheltenham, and another is planned in Chelsea. Meanwhile, the upmarket clientele is rounded up at country house fairs and game fairs around the country. Customers in London can see the range at Workshop, 2 Lawrence Street, Cheltenham, London SW3 5NB. For one of their catalogues, telephone Workshop on 071-351 6108.

The swing ticket on the Shirt-



Geometry of crisp cotton stripes in Workshop's tailored shirt



Mannish classic, Workshop

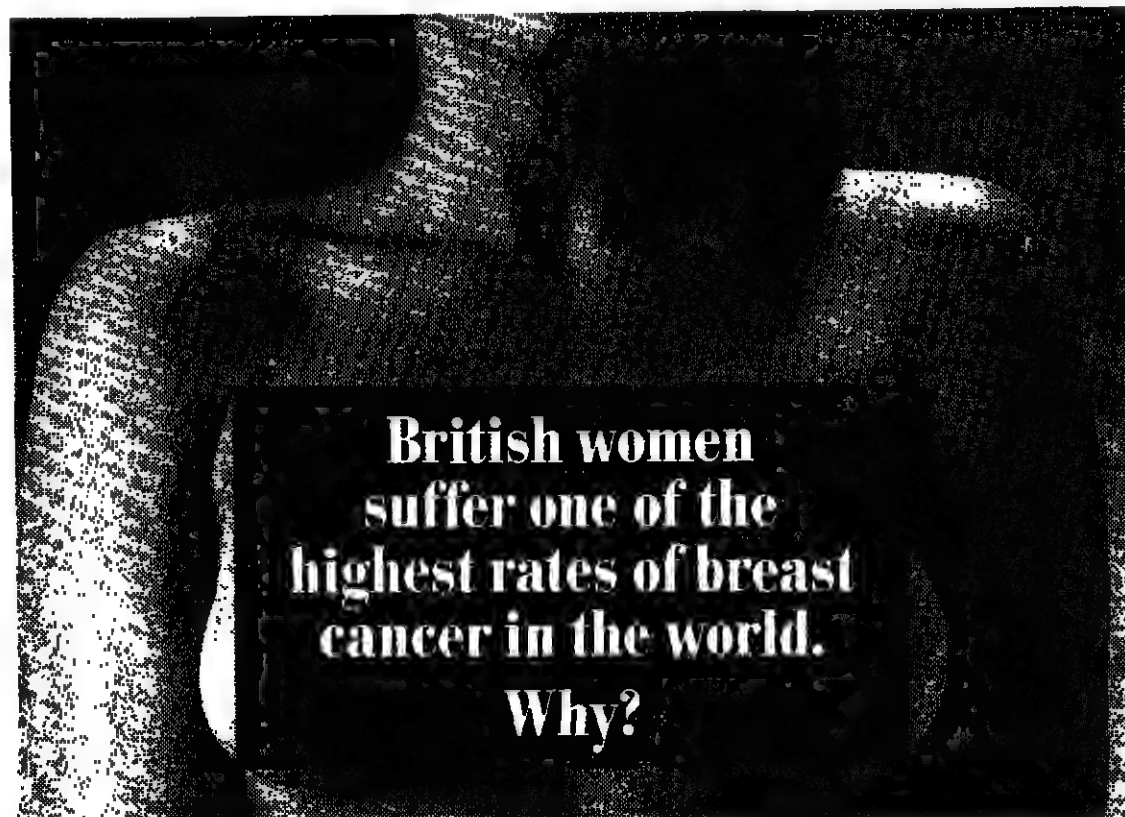
a range of special occasion shirts, mostly for women, but many, like the dressy, embroidered shirt shown here, able to be worn by men.

A former designer for Monsoon, she spent much of the Eighties travelling to India and Indonesia. The shirts are made in Tipperary, in the Republic of Ireland, in fine cotton and linens, and are lavishly scalloped and embroidered.

Banana fibre with a touch of silk organza, and a pineapple fibre that takes six weeks to weave into six yards of a rough, linen-like fabric, are among the ecologically friendly fabrics she has added to the range. These come from Boracay, a small island in the Philippines. Buttons are born, shed by free-roaming deer or made out of chalk or dried coconut which make most Shirtmaker shirts fashionably green.

Plans to expand into tailored clothing have been shelved because of the recession. "We are very comfortable as we are," Ms Salter says. "It has taken years to get shirt production to the right standards."

Shirtmaker's prices range from £100 to £160, with the more decorative styles appealing to brides and for maternity wear. The simpler cotton shirts from its Blendo-Blanco line sell from £80. Stockists include Harrods and Joseph in London, Matches in Wimbledon, Peco/Limeys in Leicester and Julie Fitzmaurice in Harrogate.



British women suffer one of the highest rates of breast cancer in the world. Why?

It's a frightening thought, if you are a woman living in Britain, that you have a one in twelve chance of getting breast cancer at some time in your life.

And though we don't yet know for sure why that is, there is mounting evidence to suggest that diet may play an important role in the cancer process.

The Health Education Authority says that 35% of all cancer deaths have been estimated to be related to diet.

That is why we are conducting a nationwide survey into diet and health to find out more about diet and cancer. To do this we need your help. So, please answer the eight simple questions alongside, and return the survey form to us today.

In return, we'll send you a FREE booklet - The WCRF Diet Guide to Reducing Your Cancer Risk. It tells you how to make the changes in your diet that we believe could reduce your cancer risk, and possibly save your life. And it includes 20 healthy and delicious recipes.

At the same time, please send a donation to support the vital cancer research that still needs to be done. There are many questions we have not yet been able to answer - and it is only through innovative research that we can find the answers to the tragedy of cancer.

Help us find out how to stop cancer before it starts. Clip the coupon now and post to: World

Cancer Research Fund, Freepost, CV1037, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0BR. Or please call: 0789 200 210.

*Breeding paper on "Diet and Cancer" HEA 1990.

SURVEY ON DIET AND BREAST CANCER

1. Do you eat red meat (steak, roast beef etc.) at least three times a week? YES ☐ NO ☐

2. Do you take any vitamin supplements? YES ☐ NO ☐

3. Do you smoke cigarettes? YES ☐ NO ☐

4. Do you have over three alcoholic drinks per day? YES ☐ NO ☐

5. Which of the following foods do you eat at least three times per month? Sausage ☐ Bacon ☐ Ham ☐ Beefburgers ☐

6. Have you ever had cancer? YES ☐ NO ☐

7. Have any of your blood relatives had cancer? YES ☐ NO ☐

8. Would you be willing to take part in a more detailed survey? YES ☐ NO ☐

Please indicate: Your sex M/F Your age _____

Your marital status _____

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Post to: World Cancer Research Fund, Freepost, CV1037, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0BR. 12890

World Cancer Research Fund

Stopping cancer before it starts

Set the scene for cottage industry

Working from home is becoming more popular - and has spawned a growing market of its own

More than two million people in Britain work from home, either full-time or part-time, according to research by British Telecom, which has produced a how-to-do-it guide.

Those setting up, or adding to, a home office can create an environment in which work becomes easier, if not pleasurable, thanks to imaginative ideas for desks, work-stations and storage systems.

Richard Hurdling's hand-crafted Dur desk may not suit everybody's taste or pocket, at £6,000, but it makes the point that a workroom can inspire personal creativity. Made of burnt oak, granite and silver metal, the only conventional thing about it is a rectangular marquetry band inlaid in the worktop. The edges are jagged and support is provided by a slab of Scottish granite piercing the worktop and running to the floor. A cone of rolled sheet metal curls around a glowing ultra-violet light, while a further light at the cone's summit offers functional illumination.

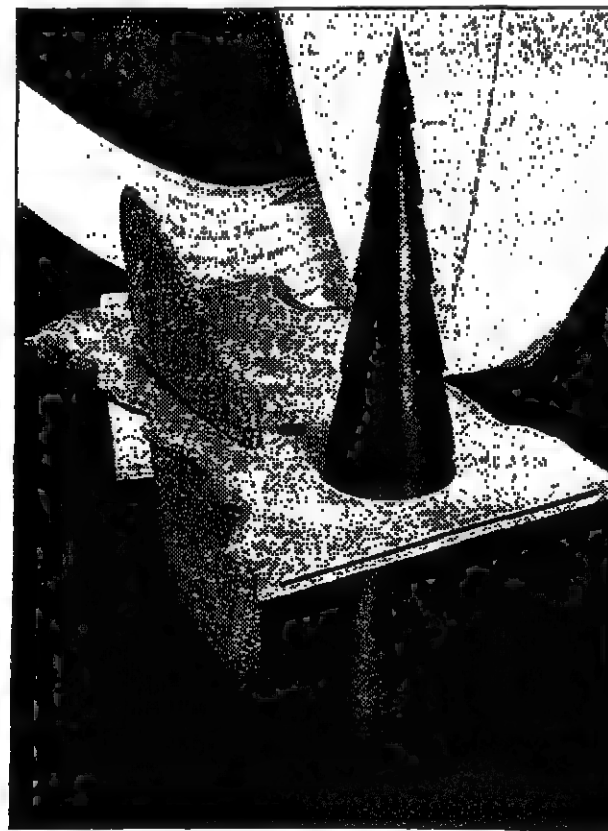
"Conventional desks are geared to a corporate image," Mr Hurdling says. "Even so, most corporate desks do not express what the company is about because design is not a high priority in the UK."

"I made this desk for the sort of person who works from home and wants an inspirational feature to make them feel good about being strapped there for eight hours a day."

Unusual desks can also be found at The Study, which stocks Mark Brazier Jones's Alligator desk at £3,750. This elegant beast has a steel frame with marble inlay and cast bronze legs shaped like its namesake's tail. One-off desk accessory designs are available.

Sir Terence Conran's streamlined Mosquito desk comes in ripple sycamore at £1,795, or plywood and aluminium at £1,575, both from the Conran Shop. More traditional is a roll-top Compass desk in cherry veneer by Pedro Miralles, the Spanish designer, at £855, also from the Conran Shop.

As a means of combining work space with storage for equipment and filing, designer Stephen Povey's component Akrosystem, at Diametric, provides a flexible and robust solution. "Akrosystem is like



The workstation as art: Richard Hurdling's Dur desk

Meccano," he says, "you can build it up as you go along." The system is based on threaded uprights, supported in mounts, slotted between floor and ceiling, and can be free-standing or set against a wall. The steel shelves are in matt black or natural lac-

quered steel, and components can be added as the home office grows. Prices start from about £500 for one bay with four shelves.

More metalwork is available at the Conran Shop, where chrome-plated steel Studio Tech desks with steel

mesh tops cost £95 (shelf £25 extra), trolley £65, and file rack £65, while the Hi Tech black tubular steel series at nationwide branches of the Reject Shop includes a fixed, five-shelf unit at £65, mobile trolleys with two or three shelves at £19.50 and £30, and a trolley with magazine shelf, £25.

If metal seems too harsh for home use, cheerfully coloured plastic furniture by Kartell, the Italian company, is light enough to shift around when a room doubles as office and living space.

A basic Kartell workstation comprising trestle top, legs and five-drawer stacking unit costs £363 from Ideas For Living, co-ordinating chairs from £61, and a side trolley for files, £192.

Anybody looking for a low-cost, self-assembly workstation should try the Swedish superstore IKEA. Tabletops and legs can be bought separately for custom-made combinations: for example, a white melamine tabletop at £16 can be fitted with tubular chrome trestle legs at £13 each. Or, a pine tabletop at £45 can be supported by solid pine trestle legs at £10 each.

A purpose-designed computer workstation helps to free valuable desk space. Traditional wood veneer pedestals, designed to house computers and other office equipment, are a specialty of Just Desks. All the wiring runs inside the desk, and the equipment is concealed when not in use, leaving an uncluttered piece of furniture. Prices for bespoke designs start from £1,600.

Less expensive alternatives include IKEA's Cast unit at £99, in black lacquered steel with separate shelves for computer, printer, paper storage and retractable keyboard shelf. The Reject Shop's Hi Tech series includes a four-shelf computer station, £75, with sliding keyboard drawer, while Esia has a mobile computer desk, about £90 plus delivery, with coloured tubular steel uprights, adjustable shelves and retractable keyboard workstation.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

A Guide to Working From Home is free from British Telecom (Freephone 0800 800845).

Conran Shop, 61 Fulham Road, SW3 (071-589 7401).

Diametric, 18 Oldhams Walk, Long Acre, WC2 (071-240 7493).

Estia, 5-7 Tottenham Street, W1 (071-636 5557).

Richard Hurdling, 62b Hackford Road, SW9 0RG (071-820 0832).

Ideas For Living, 215 Business Centre, 52 Upper Street, N1 (071-288 6176).

IKEA, Brent Park, 255 North Circular Road, NW10 (081-451 5566; 910).

Europe Boulevard, Warrington (0925 55889); Park Lane, Wednesbury, West Midlands (021-526 5232).

Just Desks, 20 Church Street, NW8 8EP (071-723 7976).

Reject Shop, 209 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 2885; for branches, 071-736 7474).

The Study, 55 Endell Street, WC2 (071-240 5844).

CINEMA

Trying to arrange a shooting match

Britain's first film commissioner, Sydney Samuelson, has not yet so much as a desk or a filing cabinet, but he is already in business. "Once it was announced in Cannes," he says, "I didn't want people to be put off and told we would not be opening until sometime in the autumn".

For the moment then the commissioner operates single-handed from his home in Hampstead. Since Cannes he has been in Washington for a festival of British cinema, sponsored by British Telecom, and organised by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, of which he is management board chairman.

Nobody pretends that his appointment is more than a small salvo for the ailing British film industry. The film commissioner is, certainly, one of the measures proposed by the film industry working party set up by Margaret Thatcher last year. "But it is really only one of the appendices to the main recommendations," says a member of the working party. "Our central proposals involve radical structural revisions of the industry alongside fiscal reforms. We need to restructure to ensure fairer returns to investors and a more equitable contribution from television to UK production. Tax incentives are essential to encourage investment and to attract foreign artists."

The role of the new commissioner is to attract overseas production to Britain. Samuelson says: "We shall build up a pool of information so that whatever they need - technical services, people, locations, laboratories, contacts with local authorities or police - we can immediately point them in the right direction."

When more specific local and material services are required the commission will pass its clients on to the various regional film commissioners. (London is soon to have its own). "Although we shall be working closely with the regional commissions, they are quite independent. There is no formal link or hierarchy." The commission will also promote its own services and British facilities, though a £3.5 million grant

Foreign film-makers are being welcomed in Britain as never before, as Sydney Samuelson, the country's first film commissioner, tells David Robinson



Samuelson: film buff

over four years will not stretch far.

With native production at an all-time low, an initiative to stimulate foreign production in Britain might seem anomalous. "Not at all," says Samuelson. "British film production alone cannot now provide employment to keep our people and services going. To ensure that the industry does not simply dry up, we have to attract work from overseas."

Samuelson is an indisputable authority on the subject of crises in British cinema. His entire life has been in the movies. His father, G.B. Samuelson, set up an exhibitor in Birmingham around 1905 at the age of 18, then became one of the country's first film distributors.

He had graduated, by 1911, to production, with his own studios at Worton Hall, Isleworth. Along with many of his contemporaries, however, he succumbed to the American competition of the Twenties. By the time Sydney was born, in 1925, his father's film enterprises had collapsed. By the second world war he was glad to get work as manager of a film depot. Often the family's only support was the wool shop which Mrs Samuelson had opened.

Sydney left school at 14. "I got a job as a rewinding boy at the Luxor Cinema, Lancing and I couldn't have been happier. I was in the movies." He became a projectionist, then a trainee editor at Gaumont British News. After war service with the RAF, he joined the Colonial Film Unit as assistant cameraman.

By 1954 he and his wife had

saved £300 for a down-payment on a house. Instead they used the money as deposit on a Newman Sinclair camera, to rent out to fellow cameramen. "It was the first proper rental service. Cameramen knew that I serviced the camera myself every time it went out so that they could rely on it."

His brothers David and Michael and their wives chipped in to buy more equipment, and by 1959 they rented half a shop in Hendon. In time, Samuelsons was to become the biggest film and

television equipment supply organisation in the world. Samuelson, though, never lost his passion for the picture themselves. He lists his recreations as "film and television nostalgia - compiling movie quizzes". As the American director Martin Scorsese recently said: "Sydney doesn't just remember everyone who worked on pictures - he knows what lenses they used as well."

Many film-makers have had cause to be grateful for Samuelson's enthusiasm. Sir Richard Attenborough recalls being on location in India when his film *Gandhi* was hit by a momentary financial disaster. "The same day there was a telegram from Sydney saying that we need not worry about our obligations to Samuelsons."

Lord Hesket, the outgoing minister, regards the choice of the new film commissioner as one of his distinct successes at the Department of Trade and Industry. There are few people in the film industry who would disagree.



Made in Britain: Michael Keaton and Kim Basinger in *Batman* (1989). *Batman 2*, the sequel, however, will be made in Canada, where there are financial advantages

BRIEFING

Step out again

FOLLOWING a successful West End run, Brian Friel's play, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, has confirmed that it will make its Broadway bow on October 17 at the Plymouth Theatre. There are plans for the show to have a run at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in September, followed by a New York transfer. Alec McCowen, however, will not be going because of prior commitments. His part is being taken on Broadway by the New York-based Irish actor, Donal Donnelly.

Last chance...

FLUSHED with renewed success, Gloria Estefan reaches the end of an emotional comeback tour when she plays the NEC in Birmingham (021 780 4133) on Thursday, and Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) on Monday and Tuesday. The woman who, just 13 months ago, was laid up with a broken back, has reclaimed her title as the queen of Latin pop with a colourful, and energetic show.

RECORDS: OPERA

One in prospect and one recalled

Verdi: *Aida*. Millo/Zajick/ Domingo/Morris. Metropolitan Opera Orch./Levine. Sony SSK 45 973 (3 CDs) Rudolf Schock: Pavarotti EMI CDS 7 67183 2 (3 CDs)

APRILE Millo has yet to appear at Covent Garden and there is no sign of her on the immediate horizon, but in America she is the reigning Aida. That position she is likely to hold for the moment, although Cheryl Studer is reported to be preparing the role. Millo's claim to the Nile comes out powerfully in Sony's new *Aida* using the forces of the Metropolitan Opera under its music director, James Levine.

Millo's soprano is bold and fresh, more than able to hold its own in Verdi's mighty ensembles. She also has the ability to float the sustained pianissimi required in both *Aida*'s arias: "O patria mia" is especially fine and suggests that Millo has listened to a number of other interpreters, learning from their qualities and their faults alike. In some ways this is an *Aida* in the old style, direct and belligerent when she is scrapping with Amneris in Act II over the future ownership of Radames. Dolores Zajick in the mezzo role is equally forceful, but lacks the refinements that Millo injects into her first major opera set.

Placido Domingo, who has recorded Radames a number of times already, uses his most aristocratic timbre, lightening the voice in "Celeste Aida" but making sure that the captain of the guard still has plenty of resonance. He and

Millo make a formidable pair, although his partnership with Caballé in 1974 (conducted by Muri for EMI) was impressive, too. Samuel Ramey's *Famfa* towers over a poorly cast King, but James Morris as Amonasro lacks the taste for battle - or Verdi - in an otherwise warlike cast.

James Levine goes for great contrasts in orchestral volume, sometimes sealing the listener in a great envelope of sound and then treating *Aida* as a chamber opera with solo instruments on display. This may not be the most subtle *Aida*, Domingo's contribution apart, but there is plenty of drama.

Rudolf Schock is little remembered in Britain today, but in Germany and Austria few tenors, apart from Wunderlich, rivalled him for popularity during the Fifties and Sixties. Wunderlich died young but Schock, his senior by a good decade, was still singing less than 20 years ago. A compilation of 50 tracks, from the 250 or so records he made during his career, shows just how broad his repertoire was. His very first disc, "Ach so fromm" from *Martha*, showed the paths that would lead both to Lehár and Wagner's *Walther*. But Schock could sing Italian opera, too, and a pair of duets with Joan Hammond, including the impassioned close of *Andrea Chenier*, are a forceful reminder that Covent Garden turned to him for roles such as Alfredo and Pinkerton when the company was rebuilding after the war.

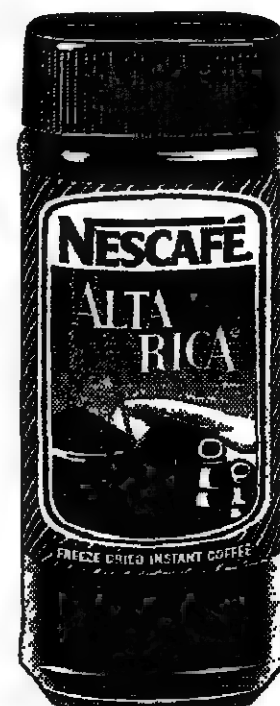
JOHN HIGGINS

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6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Film: Please Teacher (1937, b/w). Musical race in which Bobby Howe invents a country house from his airt, which he promptly sells. Later, he learns of a hidden treasure in what is now an exclusive girls' school and sets out to infiltrate the establishment. Directed by Stafford Dickens

10.50 Terror Faces Magoo, Cartoon with the tetchy Mr Magoo

11.00 Equinox: Woomera. Now a ghost town, scientists and engineers race to the heyday of the Filites missile base in the Australian outback (r)

12.00 Opening up the Family Album: Shut Your Mouth and Smile. A series about how we use photographs as social and personal historical documents. This programme looks at why we both like and dislike having our picture taken (r)

12.30 Business Daily: Sesame Street (r)

2.00 Film: The Emperor's Candlesticks (1937, b/w). Romantic thriller starring William Powell and Luise Rainer as rival pre-first world war spies vying with each other for possession of secret documents hidden in a pair of candlesticks. Directed by George Fitzmaurice

3.40 The Three Strangers: Boots in Arms (b/w)

4.00 Return to Nursing: Pennamere Creek (r) (Teletext)

4.30 Fifteen-to-One. William G. Stewart hosts the elimination quiz

5.00 Beat That. In the last in the series, *Mr Skat* searches a group of youngsters to help aliens stranded in rural Hampshire

5.30 Listening Eye: We Need Interpreters. Series focusing on issues important to the deaf and hard of hearing

6.00 The Family Player: A Family Affair. sitcom about an unlikely couple (living in Los Angeles). In the throes of a mid-life crisis, Richard (Chris Lammson) decides to become a professional pianist

6.30 Happy Days: Marion's Misgivings. Fiftee-set sitcom starring Henry Winkler. Marion (Janon Ross) dresses up as a veddy beauty

7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) 7.50 Comment. A personal opinion

8.00 Civil War: Legacy. The last episode of the series focuses on the consequences of the revolution following the restoration of Charles I in 1660. (Teletext)

8.30 The Courtship of Mr. Lynd. The Courtship of Mr. Lynd. A



Provocative: the Earl of Huntingdon, foreground (9.00pm)

Peacock's series promises to become required viewing. Peter Payne (Alex Langdon) decides to shoot a video of his school based on the life of the tragic Victorian wife Nellie Wandle

Provocative: the Earl of Huntingdon, foreground (9.00pm)

5.00 Read Window: Marx on the Wall

● **CHOICE:** The rededication of a mural on the wall of the Marx Memorial Library in London is the cue for an entertaining discourse on its unlikely creator, Jack Hastings, the Fifteenth Earl of Huntingdon. The descendant of a Plantagenet family with local claims to the British throne, Hastings came to Marx by way of Eton, Oxford and the great Mexican muralist, Diego Rivera. Hastings helped Rivera on his wall painting for the Radio City Music Hall in New York, only to see it destroyed on the order of its sponsor, John D. Rockefeller. Hastings was a friend of Lenin, Winston's mentor for the Labour Party, and a close ally of the Soviet Union. He died in 1935, and was buried by the Labour Party in 1985. **9.00pm**

0.45 **Boysen, may not be great** but it provides a lively response to the question of whether or not the world is a better place than it was. Boysen, Hastings's son-in-law, Lord Woodward of Wesford, and Alexei Sayle, who is bizarrely captioned as "sex-communist comedian".

9.45 **Short and Curries: Closed Circuit.** A security man uses the closed circuit video camera to discover the combination of the company safe.

0.00 **Film: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** (1966). Director Richard Lester applies the transic energy so evident in his Beatles' film *A Hard Day's Night* to ancient Rome in this glorious adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's Broadway musical.

0.00 **Lara Montal and Melissa Crawford** star in a plot which defines rational description but includes a farcical mix of switched identities with an orgy or two thrown in for good measure. Watch

[illegible]

Visit the Astra and Magnolia websites.
 10pm The Great American Cakeshop 4.00
 10pm 1994 Year One/Cherri 4.00
 9pm 6.00 The Motion Picture 9.00 American
 Sports Center 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00
 9pm Sports Center 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00
 9pm Sports Center 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00
 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00
 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00
 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00
 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00

CRENSPORT
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 10pm 1994 Year One/Cherri 4.00
 9pm 6.00 The Motion Picture 9.00 American
 Sports Center 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00
 9pm Sports Center 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00
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 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00
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 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00

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 10pm 1994 Year One/Cherri 4.00
 9pm 6.00 The Motion Picture 9.00 American
 Sports Center 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00 6.00
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 10pm Wrestling 11.00 Kick-Boxing 11.00
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Turnover leaps to £6.9bn at Co-op

FROM DEREK HARRIS
IN LLANDUDNO

LIKE other retailers fighting high street trading blues, the Co-op succeeded last year in boosting turnover by nearly 10 per cent to £6.9 billion with trading profits up by a record 22 per cent to £167 million.

Food sales, representing nearly two thirds of turnover, were marginally down as the harsh competition grew from rapidly expanding grocery market leaders such as Tesco and J Sainsbury.

For the Co-op, an increase in non-food sales offset that slide. There was notably a greater demand in funerals, where the Co-op is market leader, and travel, where it has more than 300 outlets.

The 73 retail societies which comprise the Co-op, ended up with a 4.4 per cent share of the retail market sector, a level unchanged for three years after nearly 20 years of gradual decline.

The news, based on estimates from the Co-operative Union, which is the Co-operative movement's central advisory body, cheered delegates attending the Co-operative Congress, the annual parliament of the movement, being held at Llandudno, North Wales.

The union noted: "Cautious optimism can now prevail." A warning was added, however, that although overall trading profits were much healthier, "A significant amount of trade continues to be conducted uneconomically."

Although the average rate of trading profit is up marginally to 2.6 per cent (2.5 per cent), the more efficient societies are at or well above the 3 per cent mark. The Channel Islands society has returns measuring up with the best among any supermarket chain, at 6.7 per cent.

Interest charges remain heavy at £39 million, reflecting continued extensive borrowings to fund development of new shops like the Co-op's 76 superstores.

In yesterday's debates the movement nevertheless demonstrated how it was still sticking to principles, possibly at risk to commercial returns.

A move to secure blessing of congress for each retail society to be entirely free to decide about opening stores on Sunday, failed with an overwhelming vote to continue support in England and Wales for the Keep Sunday Special campaign.

Watchdog seeks files on thrifts

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN regulators investigating the \$500 billion collapse of the savings and loans industry have issued court orders to seize documents from KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, over audits it conducted for 800 S&Ls in 1989 and 1990.

The office of thrift supervision has issued subpoenas against Peat, which audits about half the Savings & Loan Associations in America. The move was described by Peat as "a fishing expedition".

Peat has refused to settle a case concerning the San Francisco Federal Savings & Loan Association where regulators have challenged the propriety of \$900,000 worth of loans to Peter Meeks, a Peat partner who was in charge of the S&L's audit.

Peat says the loans were within the regulations and fully secured. The regulators allege that the loans involved special consideration and rejected the accountant's 1990 audit of the institution.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK
US dollar
1.7300 (+0.0105)
German mark
2.9586 (-0.0191)
Exchange index
91.8 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1932.5 (+8.3)
FT-SE 100
2471.1 (+17.2)
New York Dow Jones
2913.91 (+27.28)

Arbitrage buying causes concern

Speculators build up ICI holdings

By GEORGE SIVELL

INVESTORS who buy shares in companies that seem on the brink of a takeover are building up holdings in ICI in the wake of Lord Hanson's dramatic £240 million stakebuilding exercise almost two weeks ago.

In the days after Hanson's swoop, which netted 2.8 per cent of Britain's largest manufacturing company, daily turnover of ICI shares on the London stock market was at or near 10 million shares, compared with an average of 1 million or less before the raid.

It is estimated that about 40 million shares have changed hands between the Hanson raid on May 14 and the close of business on Friday.

Allowing for double counting, each share showing up as a sale and a buy, that means a further 20 million shares, or almost 3 per cent, of ICI has gone from long-term institu-

tional hands to short-term arbitrageurs.

The percentage of shares held by arbitrageurs is said by ICI advisers to be small, and is believed to be less than the number of shares held by Hanson. But advisers are concerned of the risk to the long-term stability of the company if more short-term investors were prepared to take a gamble on the possibility of a Hanson bid.

It appears to the ICI camp that fund managers of large and generally supportive City institutions have been "top-slicing" or selling a small percentage of their holdings on to market-makers who in turn have sold to the arbitrageurs.

Top-slicing is normally regarded by fund managers in the City as an insurance against a share price fall, implying that whatever soundings may have been taken behind closed doors, the big City institutions, many of

whom will be Hanson shareholders as well, do not firmly believe a bid may be made.

The revelation that Britain's largest manufacturer is slowly being eaten up by investors out for short-term capital gain is bound to fuel calls for action against the Hanson stake.

Simply by making the raid and declaring the holding, Lord Hanson has, in stock market parlance, put ICI "into play". The Hanson camp is now widely understood to be sitting back, waiting for offers for different parts of ICI to roll in. The Hanson group will then be able to do the arithmetic to see on what terms and with which partners a break-up bid or series of joint ventures would be possible.

Any hostile action, such as a bid, would be greatly assisted by the presence on the ICI shareholders register of arbitrageurs looking for short-term gains. In private, ICI's merchant bankers and directors are concerned that the company could possibly be destabilised by a horde of short-term investors.

Many of the blockbusting bids of the Eighties, which reshaped industry on both sides of the Atlantic, were made possible only with the assistance of arbitrageurs. The practice slid into disrepute with the arrest and admissions of Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street investor, who played a part in such United Kingdom battles as the Guinness takeover of Distillers in 1986.

The appearance of arbitrageurs on the shareholders' register of ICI could also be used as a reason to challenge the government position on the Hanson stake.

The Conservatives believe that the decision on ICI's future should be left to the company's shareholders and the European Commissioner for competition. But ICI advisers are concerned that the government is assuming, in adopting this stance, that apart from Lord Hanson all ICI shareholders are supportive and friendly.

Threat of Hanson move unites unions

By OUR CITY STAFF

BLUE- and white-collar unions at ICI have joined forces, for the first time, to campaign against a takeover bid by Lord Hanson. The white-collar unions are urging the government to consider any bid on the grounds that it is of "profound national interest", rather than leave a decision to the European Commission.

ICI's unions oppose any move from Hanson, which recently bought 2.82 per cent in ICI, and have vowed to fight one all the way.

Chris Darke, national officer for the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union (MSF) and co-ordinator of ICI's white-collar unions, said: "Our view is that any sort of connection with Hanson would be an unmitigated tragedy. Hanson could have a

dramatic effect on jobs at ICI." In spite of the recent slowdown in ICI's profits, Mr Darke stressed: "I think we can be highly successful. ICI is an excellent company."

He said that in the first time in the history of Britain's biggest manufacturing company, blue- and white-collar unions had joined forces to oppose any move. "It took Hanson to get us to do this," said Mr Darke.

There is increasing concern that because of ICI's size, any takeover decision may be referred to the European Commission. Mr Darke said: "We want the monopolies commission to consider any takeover bid on the grounds it has profound national interest affecting Britain's whole manufacturing future rather than losing it to Europe to consider."

HK shares tumble after 1% rise in interest rates

By PHILIP PANGALOS

HONG KONG shares fell sharply in the wake of Friday's surprise 1 percentage point jump in local interest rates and fresh concern over the future of a planned new airport for the crown colony after Sino-British talks ended in deadlock. The Hang Seng index closed down 128.46 points, or 3.46 per cent, at 3,575.52 in heavy selling, having touched a low of 3,559.

Brokers said that the market, already unsettled by uncertainties over relations with China ahead of 1997, was jolted by the rise in domestic interest rates, which took the prime lending rate to 10.5 per cent. The move was aimed at capping the colony's burgeoning inflation, which reached an annual rate of 13.9 per cent.

Sir Piers Jacobs, financial secretary, is to unveil a further



Sir Piers: spending curbs package of measures to curb spending tomorrow.

Talks on the proposed airport ended in deadlock on Wednesday and there are fears that the £8 billion project may have to be scaled down or even scrapped.

Peking resumes sovereignty of Hong Kong in 1997 and

complaints that the new airport will drain the colony's financial reserves.

The Hong Kong market has also been held back by uncertainty ahead of a debate in the American Congress in June over whether to extend China's "most favoured nation" (MFN) trade privileges. China is the colony's closest trading partner.

Private sector economists estimate a loss of China's MFN privileges, under which it enjoys the lowest possible tariffs on its exports to America, would pare up to two points from the colony's prospective economic growth of 3.5 per cent for 1991.

"The rate rise came as a shock so a lot of local investors were trying to get out," said Steven Hak, a director at Barclays de Zoete Wold.

Markets, page 24



Man in charge: Professor Roland Smith, chairman of Manchester United

United offer attracts support

By MARTIN BARROW

THE offer for sale of shares in Manchester United has already attracted very strong demand, according to the football club's advisers.

Members of the public appear not to have been put off by the well publicised financial problems of Tottenham Hotspur, the other fully quoted football club.

The shares are being offered at 385p, with a minimum investment of £192.50 for 50. Completed application forms must be received by 10am on Friday.

The flotation will raise £6.7 million for the club to redevelop the Stretford end of Manchester United's ground at Old Trafford, making it an all-seater stadium.

Manchester United, under Professor Roland Smith, the non-executive chairman, has forecast profits of £6.06 million before tax and transfer fees for the year to the end of July, compared with £2.38 million in the previous period.

Profits during the following 12 months will benefit from further European competition - the club qualifies automatically as holder of the European Cup Winners' Cup - and participation in the Super Cup, playing against the winner of the European Cup over two legs.

United is also increasing ticket prices by an average of 30 per cent next season to between £7.50 and £10. The club said these prices still compared favourably with other first division clubs.

Ex-P&D chief sues former colleagues

By OUR CITY STAFF

A FORMER senior partner of Phillips & Drew, the broker, is suing 33 of his previous colleagues over the proceeds of the company's sale to the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Jonathan Rashleigh has issued a writ against the other P&D partners, claiming a greater share of the sum paid by UBS. The price has never been made public, but some partners received millions of pounds for their share.

The list of defendants includes Keith Percy, the chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, Kenneth

Inglis, the investment director at Allied Dunbar as well as Geoffrey Redman-Brown, still a director at UBS Phillips & Drew. Martin Gibbs, the firm's former head of corporate finance, who is now on trial in the Blue Arrow case charged with conspiracy to defraud, is also listed.

The dispute centres on an agreement on the distribution of the proceeds which the partners signed in 1985. Neither UBS, nor Phillips & Drew, which is now its wholly-owned subsidiary, is involved in the action.

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Battle of the airways likely to trigger heavy discounting

BA faces turbulent summer in fight for transatlantic seats

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

BRITISH Airways flies into the start of its most important money-making summer season next week, amid slower passenger growth, more seats competing for custom and analysts issuing warnings of a fresh round of cut-price fares.

Avmark, the international aviation consultant of Washington and London, estimates there will be at least 58 more return flights a week into London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports this summer, creating 16,350 more weekly seats, with eight American carriers accounting for 57 per cent of the 838 flights and, because some are using smaller planes, about 52 per cent of the 118,152 seats.

Analysts say this is the first summer that BA has faced any real competition, from Virgin Atlantic, a British rival, and from the two new powerful American carriers - United Airlines, which bought Pan Am's routes, and American Airlines, which paid \$445 million for three Heathrow routes from Trans World Airlines.

Paul Turk, senior executive

US FLIGHTS

Carrier	Flights	Seats
BA	278	83,400
Virgin	84	30,000
American	168	35,900
United	122	30,500
TWA	42	11,000
Delta	42	9,700
Continental	36	13,500
Northwest	24	11,200
Pan Am	24	7,728
USAir	14	2,900

Source: Andrew Noella, Avmark

of Avmark, said: "It looks like there will be a 7 per cent rise in the number of US departures to London and a rise of between 3 and 4 per cent in the number of seats. There is already a price war on transatlantic fares and I expect it will intensify once American starts operating on July 1."

"To establish market share, the fight is likely to be hardest fought between United and American for US passengers this summer, and that may mean much cheaper fares being sold this side of the Atlantic than the other. But it is bound to spill over on the kind of prices BA can charge."

Lee Howard, chief exec-

utive of Airline Economics, the Washington consultant, said: "I would not be surprised if American Airlines ran that North Atlantic service at a loss this year, just to establish their market."

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive and deputy chairman, told analysts in New York, last week, that bookings for June and July had weakened during May. For the four weeks to May 19 bookings were 8 per cent down on a year ago. Passengers had also been trading down during the last quarter of 1990, which saw a 9 per cent drop in first class traffic, a 5 per cent drop in business class but an 8 per cent rise in economy.

Bookings for Concorde had, however, improved. Over the past few weeks they were 16 per cent down, a sharp improvement on February and March when they had dropped 40 per cent compared with the same months last year.

Sir Colin told analysts that much of the general improvement in passenger traffic has been spurred by extensive fare discounts, and in the three months to June 30 BA was likely to record a loss.



Facing a loss: Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways

US studio gives warning on future

ORION Pictures, smallest of the main Hollywood studios and known for its Woody Allen pictures, has given a warning it could go into bankruptcy without an injection of cash (Philip Robinson writes).

Despite months of searching, mainly in Europe, Salomon Brothers, the New York investment bank, has been unsuccessful in finding investors to put up more money. Analysts say many have been put off by Orion's debts of \$400 million.

Orion released the Oscar-winning *Dances with Wolves* and *The Silence of the Lambs*, a box office hit, but many other films flopped. Its shares have almost halved in the past week, closing on Friday down 12.5 cents at \$4.25.

William Bernstein, Orion's president, says cash reserves have been drained and debt financing costs are onerous. The terms of a plan to restructure debts of \$285 million, in exchange for equity, have met opposition from bondholders. Standard & Poor's has downgraded some debt to junk bond status.

Orion needs \$139 million over the next three months: \$66.9 million for interest on bank borrowings and its own bonds, and \$72.3 million in film commitments. It also has five films in production with a total cost of almost \$100 million.

MetroCentre's shops fear for their survival

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RETAILERS at the MetroCentre in Gateshead are becoming increasingly concerned about the prospect of rent and rates reviews that some fear could put them out of business.

The first batch of reviews for the 250-shop centre have been delivered and rents in some cases have more than trebled. One independent retailer with a small outlet on the outskirts of the centre, who pays £8,500 a year in rent at present, has received a demand for £30,000.

In addition to the rent reviews, the retailers face their first rates bills. Rates become payable after ten years in the centre under the terms of its enterprise zone designation, awarded in 1981.

The first rate bills are due in August but retailers should be informed of the sums involved in the next two weeks.

The retailer facing the rent demand for £30,000 could receive a rates bill of up to £4,000.

Norman Freeman, a partner at GL Hearn & Partners in Sunderland, who is advising a number of tenants, including Asda and Boots, said: "Retailers are becoming very worried about the size of their bills this year."

"Some are facing reviews of

three or four times last year's rent which, in the current retail environment, will make it very difficult for them."

Mr Freeman said: "Hearns has already opened and closed, as have some local retailers."

"The whole point of the centre was to give national retailers with local traders to give the centre its local flavour. If they destroy the local guy, they will destroy the concept."

The shopping centre issued a statement that said: "The first batch of rent reviews for the MetroCentre were due on the March quarter date and rents for these shop units have recently been quoted."

The statement added: "These rents are largely based upon the numerous new lettings which have been transacted."

The centre said it had attracted Moss Bros, River Island, Ciro Citterio, Body Shop, Ranks Hovis McDougall, Our Price and Levis in the past 12 months.

Rents charged, at £65 a sq ft to £140 a sq ft for the top selling space in a prime location, compare favourably, it said, with the £200 a sq ft charged for similar space in Eldon Square in Newcastle city centre.

GILT-EDGED

Bank of England chiefs should pay for inflation

Suffering from a little inflation is "a bit like being a little pregnant", according to Ruth Richardson, New Zealand's finance minister. The Kiwis have successfully aborted the inflation of the Eighties through a potent brew of high interest rates, recession and structural reforms.

They have also resorted to drastic constitutional surgery to prevent any future inflation. Legislation from 1989 states the primary function of the nation's reserve bank is to formulate a monetary policy directed to "achieving and maintaining stability in the general level of prices", and requires the government to agree explicit policy targets with the bank's governor.

The first targets envisaged inflation at 0.2 per cent by 1992, and although the timeframe was extended slightly last year, the system has already delivered an impressive collapse in inflation, from 19 per cent in 1987 to 4.5 per cent on the latest figures.

The bond market, initially cautious, has now reacted enthusiastically. A large rally earlier this month brought five-year yields down from about 10.4 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

The United Kingdom used a similar mix of tight money, recession and union legislation to kill inflation at the start of the Eighties, but took few precautions against its recurrence. Not surprisingly, it did happen again and inflation is only just starting to yield to more unpleasant treatment.

This time, steps have been taken to prevent a resurgence, though they are of a less permanent nature than in New Zealand. Exchange rate discipline, now provided by the exchange-rate mechanism, acts as a preventative but like other prophylactics can fail at the vital moment, or indeed be "deliberately" forgotten.

Politicians on all sides are full of soothing words about their commitment to the ERM but, in case the going gets too tough, both Conservative and Labour policymakers clearly have their eyes on a sterling devaluation from DM2.95 to DM2.85, which, if linked to a move to the narrow band, would leave the lower limit unchanged at DM2.78 and could be billed as "technical".

The possibility of a more permanent, though highly controversial, solution is moving slowly on to the political agenda.

Mr Heseltine supported the concept of an independent Bank of England during the Tory party leadership contest last year.

The draft treaty on European economic and monetary union, which might be signed by the end of this year, would require all participating countries to legislate independence for their central banks before the move to a single currency.

And the Governor of the Bank of England has been demonstrating in the last few

weeks that he already has some degree of independence, although it is clear that his room for manoeuvre rises in inverse proportion to the political strength of the government.

Meanwhile, the Labour party remains steadfastly opposed to the notion of an independent central bank.

The Treasury has long argued that past experience, particularly the Bank's resistance to the tough policies at the start of the Eighties, gives little hope that monetary policy will be better controlled from Threadneedle Street.

The New Zealand legislation tackles this political controversy head-on by allowing politicians a continued right to interfere in monetary policy, but only if they are prepared to make their interference public.

Changes of nuance can be made by modifying the inflation target (as happened last year), but drastic interference involving suspension of the reserve bank's primary function of maintaining stability of prices is possible only for renewable 12-month periods, and requires an order in council.

His elegant solution reserves the ultimate constitutional rights of the elected government, while giving a substantial amount of practical independence to the central bank. It is a blueprint that should form the basis of legislation in the United Kingdom.

The Kiwi approach could also be well suited to the proposed European central bank, because it allows a political safety valve that should make it easier for central bankers to get on with monetary policy. The current proposals envisage total independence for the central bank, omitting the safety valve.

This works well enough in Germany where there is a broad consensus for sound money, but in the heterogeneous world of the European Community, an all-powerful central bank would risk becoming a mini-parliament, its members subject to enormous political pressures from their constituencies. Better to insulate them from this by leaving politics to the politicians, as in New Zealand.

Meanwhile, what can Britain do? The Bank of England need not wait for legislation to strengthen its position. Why not introduce a system of incentive payments, or penalties, for members of the court of directors, analogous to those familiar in industry, linked to an inflation target, such as the 0 to 2 per cent by 1993 applicable in New Zealand?

Such an announcement would greatly improve the chances of lower inflation in future and should be consistent with a significant fall in sterling bond yields.

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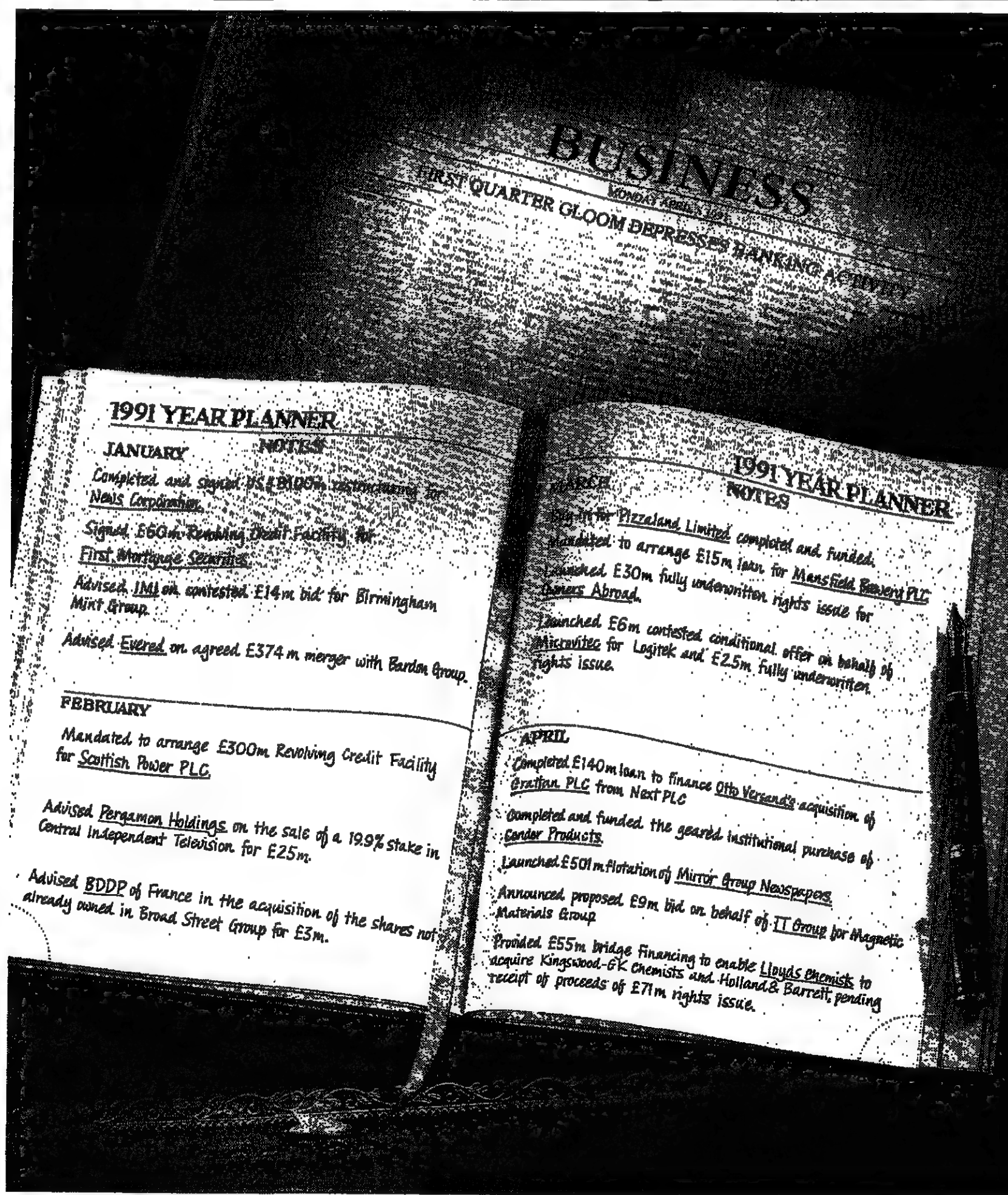
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Thatcherism reigns in socialist Spain

ECONOMIC VIEW

COLIN NARBROUGH

Those who know Spain well say it has for centuries been torn between the austere discipline of the Jesuits and an utter, possibly Moorish, proneness to self-indulgence. Modern Spain, like Britain a relative newcomer to the constraints of the European exchange-rate mechanism, has been putting its conflicting traits on show of late. While its monetary authorities have adopted a fearsome, Bundesbank-like stance against inflation, the powerful trade union movement has flexed its muscles.

A quarter of a million workers took part in strikes last Friday, with more to come. Lavish public spending for next year's Barcelona Olympics and Seville World Exposition contrasts with the efforts of Felipe González, the prime minister, and his Spanish Socialist Workers Party to persuade the unions, mainly in the state sector, to accept sub-inflation wage deals.

British attention has been focused on Iberia in the past. Today, hordes of Britons are familiar with Spain's *costas* and the *playas*. Britain's entry to the ERM, has, however, created an

intimate link between the two economies and trained City eyes on such former exotica as Spanish interest rates and treasury bonds. As ERM members on the broad, 6 per cent, fluctuation bands, Spain and Britain have similar roads to travel before reaching the inner circle of the parity grid.

Given the uncertainty at home over the chances of another Conservative victory at the next general election, it is worth taking a look at how a socialist government in Spain, in power since 1982, is coping with the adjustment to ERM orthodoxy before the single European market, and with a commitment to European monetary union in the years beyond. The pundits see little political change. Señor González will stay at the helm and his preference for market economics will prevail over the views of his party's left-wing. A socialist government with near-Thatcherite economics has

proved a formula that confounds all opposition.

How well is the Spanish economy being managed? Economic growth, as elsewhere, has slowed. The economics ministry's forecast of 3 per cent growth this year, after 3.7 per cent last year, is probably on the optimistic side. That should be the bottom. Nothing even approaching recession is expected.

The current account deficit, in spite of a bad first quarter and an underperforming tourist trade, is forecast to shrink to 2.8 per cent of gross domestic product this year from 3.1 per cent last year. Consumer prices rose at an annual 5.9 per cent in April, but are set to slow, though not as low as the official target of 5 per cent for

this year. Unemployment, ever a Spanish problem, especially in the south, has dropped over five years to 15.6 per cent. The figure was well above 16 per cent last year. For all its infrastructure extravaganzas, including a high-speed train between Madrid and Seville, the government has been a rather good housekeeper. The public sector deficit is likely to decline to about 2.5 per cent of GDP this year from 3.2 per cent last year.

But all in the Spanish garden is not rosy. Underlying inflation is running at a disturbing annual 6.5 per cent, a core rate close to Britain's, and well above the ERM average. Having lifted direct credit controls last year, Spain is experiencing nasty

overshoots on its monetary aggregates, throwing into question the signs of cooling detected in the real economy. Pay settlements have this year averaged more than 7.5 per cent, not bad by British standards, but well above what the Spanish authorities have in mind.

Direct inward investment will be crucial to the country's economic future. British investors already see Spain as a favoured investment location. After all, Spain has political stability, relatively controlled inflation, a shrinking public deficit, considerable cost advantages and better infrastructure than most of its rivals in southern Europe.

For investors in lifestyle, there are the added attractions of sunshine, warm seas and high mountains. The £7 billion of public spending in conjunction with the Seville Expo is supposed to convert Andalucía into a Spanish equivalent of California. Carlos Solchaga, the finance minister,

and Mariano Rubio, governor of the central bank, are meanwhile determined to keep the reins tight to squeeze inflation out of the system.

Having succumbed to pressure from other ERM countries and cut the official intervention rate to 12.75 per cent last week, Spain is keen not to sanction further easing before it sees unmistakable progress in reducing domestic inflation. Like Britain, Spain appears to have no plans to move to the narrower ERM bands soon.

Revaluation has been ruled out as a policy option. This leaves the peseta pushing against its upper limit in the parity grid, as long as Spanish interest rates remain high. Although the strong peseta has slowed exports, and put off tourists, the authorities are digging their heels in.

With the unions clamouring for 9 per cent wage deals, and uncertainty over how much of the cooling down can be attributed to domestic policy rather than world slowdown, Señores Solchaga and Rubio want to be double-sure inflation does not pick up.

Cresson assumes Iron Lady mantle in battle over trade

EDITH Cresson, the new French prime minister, lost no time in showing her well known hostility to Japan last week when she ordered a full-blown investigation into a proposed Japanese investment in Bull, the French state-owned computer firm. It now appears likely that plans by NEC to take a 5 per cent stake in the company will probably be shelved.

Mme Cresson is a member of the old-fashioned "tough-on-trade" school of politics. As a French foreign trade minister in the early Eighties, she spent much time arguing in favour of restrictive policies against Japanese imports, cars in particular. One evening in Paris, it has been reported, she experienced what must have been the ultimate humiliation: after a reception at the Japanese embassy, her Renault car refused to start.

With Mme Cresson's appointment as prime minister came a new car, again of French origin. What has not changed is her attitude on trade and industrial policy, which emerged as the principal area of policy on which the new socialist government seeks to differ from its forerunner. Her decision to re-examine the dealings of Bull shows only too clearly that her declarations cannot be dismissed as idle talk.

"Europe, and especially France," she said, "must no longer be dependent on trade with Japan or the United States, industrially or in terms of defence. From the research stage onward, we must respond to this challenge."

France has traditionally been one of Europe's strongest advocates of protectionist trade policies, and with Mme Cresson that advocacy has taken on a louder and more determined force.

Her forerunner, Michel Rocard, was more of a pragmatist, as was Roger Fauroux, the former industry minister. Neither is still in the government.

Protectionism is already on the increase worldwide. America this year introduced a 10 per cent tax on luxury cars, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks in



Tough-on-trade school: Michel Rocard was more pragmatic than Edith Cresson

Geneva are still deadlocked over European farm subsidies.

France, of course, has reason to be concerned. The country has so far effectively banned Japanese car imports, but with the single European market and more liberal trade policies in neighbouring countries, particularly Germany, that protectionism is no longer feasible.

Mme Cresson is going to fight hard in the Council of Ministers to restrict Japanese

Delors as well, they do. For Britain they do not. Germany and Holland side with Britain on this issue as a matter of principle.

With Mme Cresson as prime minister, however, France is now even more likely to lead an "anti car transplant" alliance, which should have the support of most south European countries. The issue could blow up into one of the biggest Euro-battles so far, with Mme

a wider concept on industrial policy that is held by French politicians of all stripes but unheard of elsewhere in northern Europe. Mme Cresson reiterated an old Mitterrandian theme that says France must become "as strong as Germany". This is to be achieved by "pushing industries to the limit while keeping financial balance".

Some of the industries she considers strategic, such as electronics and computers, are already pushed to the limit, if not over. France's national champions, like Bull, Thomson, the electronics conglomerate, and Renault, are in considerable difficulties.

Mme Cresson will also be severely restrained by Pierre Bérégovoy, who heads a newly created super-ministry, incorporating the finance, economics and industrial portfolios.

The French prime minister should be taken more seriously on trade and inward investment, an issue she understands only too well. With the deterioration in the world economy, protectionism is firmly back on the political agenda. In Mme Cresson it might have found the most effective advocate so far, not just in France, but in Europe.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business Correspondent

'Europe, and especially France, must no longer be dependent on trade with Japan or the United States, industrially or in terms of defence'

car imports for as long as possible.

In that respect she will outperform even Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, a former cabinet colleague who is usually not best known for his free-market liberalism. Last week, while on a visit to Tokyo, M Delors was critical of Japan over protectionism.

The Japanese say they can live with temporary import quotas on cars, provided that Japanese cars made in Europe, mainly in Britain, do not count as imports. For Mme Cresson, and probably for M

Cresson playing the now-vacant part of Iron Lady, or Mme de Fer, the one who screams: "No! No! No!"

The rising protectionist sentiment is a consequence of France's deteriorating economy: growth is likely to decline from 2.8 per cent last year to 1.5 per cent or less this year while the current account is likely to show a deficit.

France does not produce exports of a sufficiently high quality, except for luxury goods, and, unlike Italy, did not benefit from the German consumer boom last year.

Protectionism is also part of

United banks on its fans

TEMPUS

TRY for a moment to forget that the business of Manchester United is football. Here is a company with an uninterrupted trading record dating back to 1878. In the depths of the sharpest recession for a decade, United is enjoying the most profitable year in its history.

The club is already a market leader in Europe and enjoys almost universal recognition for its name which, incidentally, carries no value on the balance sheet. United is being floated on the stock market free of debt and promises record profits before tax of £5.26 million this year.

The problem is that United's business is football and perceptions of the sport's ability to conduct its business in a professional manner are poor. Tottenham Hotspur will be held up as an example of why football and the City do not go hand in hand.

But if any Football League club can make the transition, it is surely United. Where Tottenham was run by property developers, United has Martin Edwards, a full time executive since 1981. His understanding of the sport and of its commercial aspects is greatly respected. Professor Roland Smith is non-executive chairman, while the

finance director is Robin Lauder, who held the same post at Reg Vardy.

Financially, United has never been stronger. It has cash in the bank, boasts the largest average gates in England and has developed commercial interests to the extent that gate takings account for just half of revenues, with television, sponsorship, advertising and catering making up the balance. Even during a season in the second division, average gates were higher than most first division clubs. United has also pledged not to diversify from football.

United is raising £6.7 million by flotation. Together with existing resources and grants from the Football Trust, that should be sufficient to redevelop the Stretford end of Old Trafford to make the ground an all-seater. Completion within budget will be the quoted company's first big test.

Net assets, including property, are estimated at £39.9 million, or 328p a share. The shares, priced at 385p, are being offered at 10.6 times forecast earnings of 36.2p a share. A first dividend of 17.4p a share will be paid for

the year to July 1992, implying a gross yield of 6 per cent.

The recent profit record is, admittedly, patchy. United has made a loss in two out of the past three years, although the picture is complicated by transfer fees. Net of transfers, profits have grown from £1.57 million in 1988 to £2.38 million last year. For the current year the forecast, net of transfers, is £6.06 million.

The shares are not cheap but United has done its homework. Of the 4.67 million shares on offer, just over 2 million have already been placed with institutions. The balance is being offered to the public, with a minimum investment of £192.50, and the club's loyal followers should guarantee there is no shortage of takers.

Water groups
AN unexpected dilemma faces the nine remaining water groups that will announce final dividends for the year to end March in a steady trickle, rising in the Southwest on Thursday and finally flowing on to Wessex on June 27. On July 12, dealings will end in the water package,

which combines weighted holdings in all ten privatised companies as they were originally sold to institutions and Japanese investors. That prospect has brought a new beauty contest in which companies are keen to impress so that their shares are chosen when fund managers sort the wheat from the chaff.

Dividends were an important anticipated source of competition. Companies with relatively low share prices such as Southern and Severn Trent were expected to boost their dividends by at least three points more than the 14.8 per cent benchmark set by Yorkshire last Thursday.

The price of Thames and Wessex has already risen on the strength of even higher implied rises in interim payments. But Anglian and North West slipped from early favour after making the lowest interim increases.

All this has changed since Ian Byatt's letter warning the companies not to pay excessive dividends. The companies knew they could be taking a risk, but the need to avoid the regulator's wrath will now take a prominent role in the market's tests for evaluating them. Yorkshire's caution looks an asset. The board meetings should be interesting.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Storm warning

DESPITE being on the wrong end of a hostile £127.7 million takeover bid from rival brewer Boddington, directors of Devensh have retained their sense of humour. They have been chuckling over a suggestion by Denis Cassidy, chairman of Boddington, that Devensh's imminent profit forecast will be no more reliable than a weather forecast because of the impact a poor summer may have on sales at public houses. Bill Blake, Devensh's finance director, plans to send the forecast to the Meteorological Office at Bracknell for verification. Cassidy, firing up to the part, was spotted stuffing down Cornhill on Friday clutching a distinctive black and yellow Boddington umbrella. It was, he said, to help Kroll Associates—which has been called in by the Devensh camp—to follow his progress through the City streets.

GRAFFITO on a hoarding in Tanton: "Most of us spend eight hours earning money, eight hours spending more than we earn, and eight hours wondering why we can't sleep."

Combine harvester

WILLIAM Grosvenor, Asil Nadir's former public relations guru, rose to his feet at the creditors' meeting for Polly Peck, the fruit to packaging and electronics combine, on Friday and declared he was owed £200,000. He offered



himself as a candidate for the creditors' committee as a representative of small creditors after congratulating the administrators for their outstanding handling of the company's affairs. The flamboyant Grosvenor, a cousin of the Duke of Westminster, hastened to add that while he was very keen to see his money, Wheatstreak, his business, was "not particularly suffering" despite the demise of its biggest client.

Dial M for misery

THE British launch of the film *Misery*, starring James Caan and Kathy Bates, has been greeted with rage at the offices of First Independent Corporate Finance, a City boutique. For the firm—set up by two former 3i employees in 1985—has been plagued with telephone calls for First Independent Films, the British distributor. "We've even had someone asking for a job in films," says Robert Kitzinger, the FICF chairman, who set up the firm with John Beatty. It seems that directory enquiries have been handing out

their number by mistake. And will he see the film? "I'm not sure that I want to."

The under one

NIGEL Lawson is leaving Britain to live in France. At least, Nigel Lawson the dairy farmer is. Angered by Britain's agricultural policies, Lawson, no relation to the former Chancellor, and his family are moving from their home near Scarborough, North Yorkshire, to a 220-acre farm near Cerny in central France. Lawson says grumpily: "Crippling milk quotas in Britain have made it impossible for a young farmer to survive." The French government has lent him £45,000 to get started. Nearly a year ago, his famous namesake was seen wandering the streets of the City clutching a cup—all in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Appeal.

NOTICE in a chemist's shop in Bath: "A mosquito is like a small boy. The minute he stops making a noise, you know he's into something."

JON ASHWORTH

REPORTING THIS WEEK

A chill wind will not upset British Gas

INCREASED profits from gas supply, exploration and production will provide a welcome boost for British Gas, which is headed by Robert Evans and reports its final figures on Thursday.

The figures will benefit from the colder winter (compared with the previous mild one) and a contribution from Consumers' Gas of Canada, acquired last year.

Chris Perry, at Girozentrale Gilbert Elliott, is expecting historic net income to advance to £1.23 billion (£926 million) for the year to end March. Market forecasts range from £1.1 billion to £1.25 billion. Mr Perry expects earnings per share to rise to 28.8p (21.7p), with the dividend up to 12.05p (10.5p).

Further news is awaited in the light of the recommendations from Ofgas, the gas industry watchdog, with the proposed changes in tariffs, which are due to take effect from next April, expected to take about £120 million off the group's net income in the year to the end of March 1993.

TODAY

Pete Deighton, at County NatWest WoodMac, expects interim pre-tax profits at Westland Group, the Yeovil, Somerset, helicopter and aerospace group led by Sir Leslie Fletcher, to climb to £12.5 million (£11.5 million) on an estimated turnover of £210 million (£195 million). Market forecasts range from £9.8 million to £12.5 million.

Interim: Dixie (James), Great Western Resources, Metro Radio Group, Westland Group. Final: City of London PR Group, International Investment Trust Company of Jersey, Rolfe & Nolan Computer Services, Throgmorton Trust.

TOMORROW

Analysts expect interim pre-tax profits at Carlton Communications, Michael Green's broadcasting and television facilities group which recently joined the bidding for a Channel 3 licence, to decline to between £45 million and £50.5 million (£44.9 million), reflecting weak demand on both sides of the Atlantic and adverse currency moves.

Robert Fowles, at Kleinwort Benson, expects interim pre-tax profits at MEPC, the property investor and developer, to slip to about £70 million (£77 million). Market forecasts range from £70 million to £77 million.

Mr Fowles feels that the half-year figures are not too significant and any writedown is more likely to come at the full-year stage.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects final pre-tax profits at SG Warburg, the merchant bank, to decline to £112 million, against £187.5 million. Market forecasts range from £103 million to £118 million.

The company suffered a 35 per cent fall in first-half profits and the decline is thought to have continued in spite of a good final quarter that will have failed to offset a poor third quarter.

Interim profits at Mercury Asset Management, Warburg's fund management subsidiary, are expected to fall to £45.5 million (£39.1 million).

Interim: Carlton Communications, MEPC, North American Gas Investment Trust. Final: Chillingham Corporation, East Surrey Water, European Colour, Gates (Frank G), Hurdar Saphir, Mercury Asset Management, Mid Kent Holdings, Optical and Medical International, Ritz Design Group.



Cold comfort: the harsher winter will give a boost to final figures at British Gas, headed by Robert Evans

Scott Pickford, Southnews, Warburg (SG).

THURSDAY

Thorn EMI, the music, light and defence group headed by Colin Southgate, is expected to announce a substantial fall in full-year profits as a result of difficult conditions and restructuring costs.

Peter Roe, at Nikko Securities, expects pre-tax profits to drop to £260 million (£317.5 million), giving earnings per

share of 57.7p (70.8p) and a maintained dividend of 30.3p (30p).

Market forecasts range from £255 million to £275 million, although the bulk of predictions are concentrated towards the lower end, with some analysts pointing to a "more realistic figure" nearer £250 million.

Thorn issued a warning in January that profits would be modestly lower than at the time of the half-year an-

ouncement, with sterling's strength depressing the contribution from international operations, which account for more than half of the group's profits. The decline in profits will reflect a weak dollar and a poor performance in the lighting sector.

The music division should be the star performer and provide the one bright spot. Lakis Athanasiou, at UBS Phillips & Drew, expects final

pre-tax profits at South West Water to advance to £87 million (£82.8 million). Market forecasts range from £85 million to £88 million.

Mr Athanasiou forecasts a dividend of 20.0p (17.4p) in spite of recent warnings on earnings and dividend excesses as they are "unlikely" to have an immediate effect.

Dumhill Holdings, the international retailer and luxury goods maker that does more than 90 per cent of its business

outside Britain, is expected to report pre-tax profits of about £72 million, against £60.6 million last time, according to Paul Morris at Goldman Sachs.

Mr Morris says the company, which saw profits grow by about 31 per cent in the first half, will have seen a "marked slowdown in the second half" to about 10 per cent, reflecting a decline in international travel in the wake of the Gulf war.

Pre-tax profits at Babcock International, the engineering group, are forecast to climb from £42.6 million to between £45 million and £47 million.

The group, which has a strong balance sheet with cash of more than £55 million, lost a substantial power station contract at Al Anbar in Iraq during the year, but the lost work has been more than offset by a number of medium-sized contracts.

Interim: ASI Leisure, Best Brothers, Capital Radio, Euroco, Fish Investment Trust, Smart (J) & Co (Contractors). Final: Babcock International Group, British Gas, Dunhill Holdings, Grampian Television, Macdonald Martin Distilleries, Martin Currie European Investment Trust, New Throgmorton Trust (1989), Ralston Investment Trust, South West Water, Thorn EMI. Economic statistics: Energy trends (March), new vehicle registrations (April).

FRIDAY

Interim: Save & Prosper Return of Assets Investment Trust (second interim dividend), Stratagem Group. Final: Barco Group, Henderson Administration, TR Property Investment Trust. Economic statistics: London sterling certificates of deposit (April), monetary statistics (including bank and building society balances) (April), bill turnover statistics (April), starting commercial paper (April).

PHILIP PANGALOS

WORLD MARKETS

Nikkei slides in thin trading

Tokyo SHARES closed lower, pulled down towards the end of a day of thin trade by index selling. The 225-share Nikkei average fell 103.26 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 25,425.88, with 200 million shares changing hands compared with 370 million on Friday.

Brokers said the market lacked incentives, but it was also discouraged by poor results announced by Nishin Steel Co, which led to dealer selling in that and other large-capital issues.

Tadayasu Hasegawa, of Kokusai Securities, said: "Nishin's results had a bad effect but because we know the cause of today's poor market, people aren't really worried." He said that smaller and medium-sized stocks attracted most buying.

Declining shares outnumbered advancing shares by over five to two, with only the oil and gas sectors showing gains.

Prices have mixed day

Singapore - Share prices closed mixed as selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking in quiet trading. The Straits Times industrial index lost 6.11 points to close at 1,541.49. Brokers said sentiment turned cautious after the market's strong showing last week and in view of yesterday's holidays in London and New York. The Singapore market will also be closed today for a local holiday.

Rising trend continues

Frankfurt - Shares continued the positive trend seen last week, recording a further 0.6 per cent rise as domestic investors took advantage of the absence of British and American investors to gain a foothold in the German market. The DAX index closed 9.58 points higher at 1,681.45 after it had risen to a 1991 high earlier in the session. Winfried Belling, of Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, said: "Prices were set to rise after they continued to gain in Friday's post-bourse. Many foreign operators were in the market today through their German subsidiaries."

Scattered support

Sydney - Australian shares closed marginally lower in thin trade amid scattered support from local institutions. The all-ordinaries index closed down 1.7 points at 1,535.1.

New high for year

Zurich - Swiss shares closed at a new high for the year in quiet trading as hopes for lower interest rates continued to support prices. The all-share SPI index rose 7.9 points to 1,111.1. (Reuters)

Insurers face £20m fire claim

By OUR CITY STAFF

MERCANTILE Credit, the finance company, intends to present insurers with a bill for at least £20 million as a result of the fire that swept through its headquarters in Basingstoke, Hampshire, last month. The extent of the damage means that it may take 12 months to assess the final figure. Fire gutted two floors and seriously damaged two more in the 12-storey Churchill Plaza that Mercantile shares with Blue Circle.

The building, completed two years ago, is insured for £44 million, but Mercantile is also covered for repairs. The £20 million initial claim has been estimated by Edward Rushton Son & Kenyon.

Trusthouse expands in East

By OUR CITY STAFF

TRUSTHOUSE Forte, the international hotels and catering group, is expanding its catering activities in the Far East and is extending its hotel operations in South America.

Gardner Merchant, THF's international contract caterer, has formed a joint venture to provide contract catering services in Hong Kong, through a 51 per cent interest in a new

company formed with Vitasoy International Holdings of Hong Kong and C Itoh of Japan.

The joint venture company has acquired M Y Cheng Catering company, which operates 12 contracts in Hong Kong, employs 300 staff and has a HK\$56 million (£7.2 million) turnover.

Garry Hawkes, Gardner

Merchant's managing director, said the joint venture "represents an important strategic development" for the business, complementing existing operations in Singapore and Malaysia, as well as being a base from which to expand into mainland China.

In addition, Trusthouse Forte, which operates more than 800 hotels worldwide, has formed a partnership with a number of local companies to operate Travelodge Hotels in South America. The partnership will pursue opportunities in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela.

The first hotel is Orquidea Real, the Travelodge Hotel in Bogota, Colombia, which will contain the largest convention centre in Latin America, capable of accommodating 3,500 people.

Skase is charged

CHRISTOPHER Skase, the former chairman and chief executive of Qintex Australia Ltd, the leisure and media group that collapsed in 1989 owing Aus\$1.6 billion, has been charged with two breaches of corporate law and asked to surrender his pas-

port. The charges, made by the Australian Securities Commission, relate to a Aus\$19 million payment by a Qintex subsidiary that went to Kahma Investments Pty Ltd, Mr Skase's private company. Mr Skase could face a fine, five years' jail, or both.

Gibraltar issues gold ecu coins

By PHILIP PANGALOS

GIBRALTAR has issued a gold coin that has its value expressed in two currency systems - British pounds and European currency units (ecu).

Ecu coins have been issued by several European countries in recent years but did not have legal tender status and were struck in proof only for sale to collectors. The Gibraltar ecu coins are designed for circulation.

They have a face value of £50 or 70 ecus and contain 3.1103 grams of pure gold. The 12-carat gold ecu is intended to be exchangeable at commercial banks in Gibraltar, so a resident with a £50 note may exchange the note for a gold ecu coin.

The coins are expected to stay in circulation, since the gold content is worth considerably less than the face value of the coins.

The Gibraltar ecu, which has been struck by the Pobjoy Mint in Surrey, has a heraldic shield dominated by a mounted knight in full armour on one side, said to represent Charlemagne.

Twelve stars, representing the nations of the European Community, surround the coin and a thirteenth star on the knight's shield represents Gibraltar. The opposite side of the coin bears the likeness of the Queen.

Germany aims to ban Arab boycott

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY, Europe's economic superpower, is drafting legislation to outlaw the Arab boycott of Israel, and is trying to persuade its European community partners to do likewise.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, is the driving force behind Bonn's push for a community-wide ban on compliance with the Arab League's 40 year old boycott of companies conducting business with Israel.

EC foreign ministers were understood to have accepted Israeli proposals on how to end the Arab embargo at the last session of the EC-Israel council in Brussels in mid May. But Germany, while intent on securing EC agreement on legal steps against the boycott, is pressing ahead with its own national legislation.

The economics ministry in Bonn has started work on the details required for draft legislation. An economics ministry spokesman said it was important to examine the loopholes that companies had found in laws passed in America and the Netherlands, where compliance with the boycott is already banned.

While he noted Germany's commitment to act against the boycott had a moral as well as a political dimension, he said legal moves would only make sense if done at an international level. The draft German law would take time to pre-

pare, but Germany would not be "dragging its feet", the spokesman said.

America legislated in the mid-Seventies against the embargo, forbidding firms to comply or pain of stiff fines.

The Arab League boycott office removed Coca-Cola and other American firms from its black list this month, only to slap a ban on other companies. The black list affects 10,000 companies worldwide.

At an EC level, the anti-boycott rules are currently being discussed in a working group set up by the political directors of the 12 EC foreign ministries.

An EC challenge to the Arab boycott, on which some North African states have already broken ranks, would form part of a broader policy aimed at securing a greater European say in the Middle East peace process, and convincing Israel that Brussels' desire for direct economic ties with the West Bank and Gaza does not mean it is against Israel.

The Arab League's decision to maintain its black list, despite the successful alliance between the Arab countries, America and Europe during the Gulf conflict, brought disappointment in Western capitals.

National Westminster Bank Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 28 May 1991:

Savings			
Gross Interest per annum %		Gross Compounded Annual Rate %	
12.00%	Tessa Reserve Tax Free Savings No Minimum Balance	12.55%	Special Reserve; Instant Access Savings Minimum Balance £500
		9.25%	£25,000 and above;
		8.75%	£10,000-£24,999;
		8.50%	£2,000-£9,999;
		8.00%	£500-£1,999;
11.25%	Crown Reserve 3 Months' notice Minimum Investment £2,000	7.625%	Investment Account; 6 Months' Notice;
11.00%		7.50%	3 Months' Notice;
10.625%		7.25%	Monthly Income Account;
	Premium Reserve Instant Access Minimum Balance £2,000	5.00%	On Line Account;
11.00%		4.00%	Bonus Saver Account;
10.75%		2.125%	7 Day Notice Deposit Account;
10.375%			
	First Reserve Instant Access No Minimum Balance		
8.50%		8.77%	
8.00%		8.24%	
7.50%		7.71%	
7.00%		7.19%	
6.50%		6.66%	
5.00%	World Savers (for children)	5.06%	

National Westminster Bank plc
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If specifying a passenger lift has become difficult you may like to try a Stannah - the name you have come to trust for your personal lift needs. We have developed a comprehensive range of top quality passenger lifts for nursing homes, guest houses, hotels, offices, factories and any small to medium business. Despite being the largest independent UK lift company, we pride ourselves on our unique customer service which is simply aimed at matching your expectations. We will gladly advise on your lift needs without any obligation.

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SOLICITORS and legal office
EXHIBITION
BARBICAN
4th-6th June 1991

Tue 4th June:
10:00am - 6:00pm
Wed 5th June:
10:00am - 7:30pm
(late night opening)
Thu 6th June:
10:00am - 5:00pm

The Barbican Exhibition Centre
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هكذا من الأصل

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Jeppia	Motors/Aircraft	
2	Brake Bros	Food	
3	Wool (S)	Textiles	
4	Thames	Transport	
5	Anglian Water	Water	
6	TSB	Bank/Finance	
7	Christians Int	Industrial A-D	
8	WPP	Paper/Print/Adv	
9	North West	Water	
10	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
11	Lloyds	Bank/Finance	
12	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
13	Transport Dev	Transport	
14	Green Group	Industrial L-R	
15	Elc Data Process	Electricals	
16	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
17	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
18	BOC	Industrial A-D	
19	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
20	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
21	Bulmer (H F)	Breweries	
22	Polytype	Industrial L-R	
23	Qing	Transport	
24	Holding Finance	Textiles	
25	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
26	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
27	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
28	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
29	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
30	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
31	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
32	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
33	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
34	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
35	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
36	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
37	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
38	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
39	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
40	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
41	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
42	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
43	Barclays	Bank/Finance	
44	Barclays	Bank/Finance	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

BRITISH FUNDS			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

UNDATED			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

INDEX-LINKED			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

ELECTRICALS			
Share	Price	Change	%
1000	100.00	0.00	0.0

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 20. Dealings end May 31. Settlement day June 3. Settlement day June 10.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Jeppia	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
2. Brake Bros	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
3. Wool (S)	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
4. Thames	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
5. Anglian Water	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
6. TSB	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
7. Christians Int	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
8. WPP	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
9. North West	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
10. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
11. Lloyds	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
12. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
13. Transport Dev	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
14. Green Group	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
15. Elc Data Process	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
16. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
17. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
18. BOC	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
19. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
20. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
21. Bulmer (H F)	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
22. Polytype	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
23. Qing	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
24. Holding Finance	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
25. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
26. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
27. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
28. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
29. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
30. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
31. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
32. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
33. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
34. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
35. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
36. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
37. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
38. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
39. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
40. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
41. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
42. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
43. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
44. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Jeppia	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
2. Brake Bros	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
3. Wool (S)	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
4. Thames	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
5. Anglian Water	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
6. TSB	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
7. Christians Int	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
8. WPP	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
9. North West	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
10. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
11. Lloyds	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
12. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
13. Transport Dev	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
14. Green Group	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
15. Elc Data Process	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
16. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
17. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
18. BOC	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
19. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
20. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
21. Bulmer (H F)	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
22. Polytype	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
23. Qing	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
24. Holding Finance	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
25. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
26. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
27. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
28. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
29. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
30. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
31. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
32. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
33. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
34. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
35. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
36. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
37. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
38. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
39. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
40. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
41. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
42. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
43. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
44. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Jeppia	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
2. Brake Bros	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
3. Wool (S)	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
4. Thames	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
5. Anglian Water	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
6. TSB	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
7. Christians Int	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
8. WPP	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
9. North West	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
10. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
11. Lloyds	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
12. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
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14. Green Group	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
15. Elc Data Process	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
16. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
17. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
18. BOC	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
19. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
20. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
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23. Qing	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
24. Holding Finance	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
25. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
26. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
27. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
28. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
29. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
30. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
31. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
32. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
33. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
34. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
35. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
36. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
37. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
38. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
39. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
40. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
41. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
42. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
43. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0
44. Barclays	1.74	0.02	0.00	0.00	10.0

Depository Company	Price Last Friday	Change on week	Div ann year	Div Yld %
75.85 City West	22	-4		
98.40 Delta	22	0	15.7	4.0
52.50 Downing	367	+9	3.8	2.2
77.25 Downing & Sons	30	-	6.8	2.5
4.1000 EAC	50	-1	1.1	1.0
406.75 Eurochem	288	-8	8.1	3.4
8.644.000 Fiat Cars Finance	21	+6	4.0	4.0
5.620.000 Goshen House	20	-	4.0	4.0
22.50 Harcourt	40	-1	4.7	11.5
101.85 Equinor	282	-5	8.2	4.0
247.50 F&G	20	-	6.8	5.8
26.75 F&G	217	-8	7.3	3.4
13.50 Farnell	10	-2		

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on page 28

PRIVATE PRACTICE

PROPERTY LITIGATION to £43,000
Leading international City practice. Increasingly busy litigation department. Dynamic lawyer sought 1-3 years qualified. Broad range of stimulating property related disputes. Strong interpersonal skills essential.

BANKING to £45,000
Major Central London practice. Expanding banking department seeks assistant. Ideally 1-3 years qualified. Varied workload includes secured lending, syndicated loans and project finance. First rate opportunity.

CONSTRUCTION to £50,000
Premier international construction/building practice. Highly active construction department. Assistants required with 2-5 years' experience of contentious and/or non-contentious matters. Challenging top level work.

EMPLOYMENT to £42,000
Experienced employment lawyer 2-3 years qualified sought by major City firm. Highly regarded employment team handling matters of the highest quality. Strong academic background and experience gained from recognised practice essential.

CORPORATE to £45,000
Progressive and dynamic London practice seeks solicitor 2-3 years qualified. High profile company/commercial department handling mergers, acquisitions and flotations. Corporate restructuring experience advantageous.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION to £44,000
Major City practice. Expanding high profile litigation department seeks assistant 1-3 years qualified. Varied range of interesting commercial disputes including banking and insolvency. Definite international element.

PROPERTY to £42,000
High profile City practice. Solicitor sought 1-3 years qualified. Broad range of heavyweight commercial property transactions. A strong academic background and relevant experience from similar practice required.

SHIPPING LITIGATION to £36,000
Well known, medium-sized City practice. Highly regarded in the area of shipping law. Assistants sought up to 2 years qualified. Varied range of wet and dry matters. September 1991 qualifiers with relevant experience considered.

CORPORATE TAX to £75,000
Highly respected City practice. Successful, expanding taxation department. Experienced solicitor sought 4-6 years qualified to assist with practice development. Heavyweight tax experience essential. Partnership opportunity.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE £ City Rates
International bank with operations worldwide. Expanding legal team handles range of banking work with bias towards capital markets and corporate finance. Lawyers with 1-4 years' experience.

BLUE CHIP to £60,000 + Benefits
Major British multinational based in Central London. Highly regarded legal team handles corporate, funding and heavyweight commercial matters. Senior corporate/finance solicitor required. Excellent prospects.

IP £ Excellent
International entertainments organisation based in Central London. Legal department is an integral part of business operations. Lawyer with international IP (copyright) experience required. Travel and excellent prospects.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL c.£35,000 + Car
Blue-chip multinational based in Central London. Prominent legal department handles broad range of high quality corporate/commercial work. Solicitor sought with at least 2 years' experience from major City firm.

CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION £ Excellent
Major insurance company based in East Anglia. High profile legal team handles broad range of work. Construction litigator required with over 1 year's relevant experience. Excellent prospects.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL c.£35,000 + Car + Bonus
Expanding legal team within major pharmaceutical company in Central London. Solicitor/barrister with at least 2 years' commercial experience including EEC and IP matters. Excellent first move into industry.

LITIGATION £ Excellent
Well known British company based in London. Medium sized legal function handles high quality work including contractual disputes, IP, property litigation and insolvency. Solicitors with at least 3 years' PQE.

MIDLANDS c.£35,000 + Car
Dynamic, international company with operations worldwide. Sole legal adviser will handle general commercial/corporate work with European flavour. Lawyer with at least 3 years' PQE. International travel. Conversational French advantageous.

ENTERTAINMENTS £ Market Rate
High profile, London based entertainments company. Legal function handles general corporate and commercial matters with an international bias. Applicants should have c. 1 year's PQE and minimum 2.1 degree.

CORPORATE LAWYER to £45,000 + Car
Highly successful dynamic British Plc with HQ based in Central London. Small, in-house team handles international M&A work and more general commercial matters. Solicitors with at least 3 years' PQE.

TAYLOR • ROOT

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AS A PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY, WE NEVER APPROACH CLIENTS WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR CONSENT
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or write to: Taylor Root, Ludgate House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB. Alternatively please feel free to telephone us evenings and weekends on 081-675 6384 or 081-542 8337.

Chambers Administrator

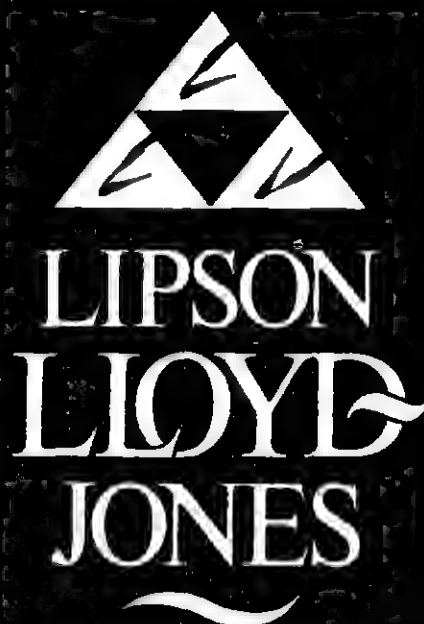
Temple - circa £30,000

Our client, a leading set of Barristers' Chambers, is seeking to recruit an experienced professional to take full responsibility for office management and administration.

The successful candidate will set up and implement an independent administrative function, reporting directly to the Executive Committee and the Heads of Chambers. Responsibilities will include Chambers' accounts, PAYE and VAT matters, information technology, credit control and maintaining office equipment, supplies and services.

The appointee will have a proven track record in administration and management as well as the ability to make recommendations and suggest innovations to improve the running of Chambers. He/she will be authoritative and enthusiastic and have the ability to deal with professionals on a daily basis.

If you would like to be considered for this exciting and challenging position, write to Simon Lipson, enclosing a copy of your CV, by 5 June 1991.



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24 HOURS

Litigation Lawyer

Commercial west and team seek enthusiastic lawyer to handle all litigation.

Barrister cross qualifying or solicitor 18 months PQE ideal - but overriding importance is to recruit someone with commercial intuition and practical as well as technical vision.

We believe this opportunity will appeal to someone who likes to draft his own pleadings and to do her own advocacy as required.

An experienced legal executive would be considered.

Contract and commercial disputes comprises half the present workload in this practice specialising in business transfers and company law.

Litigation also features Landlord & tenant work - perhaps 25% - but strictly no crime or legal aid.

Competitive salary package according to age and experience.

Written applications only with personal details to Faye Roberts: Personnel Manager. July start anticipated.

Hughes Watton

Solicitors
2 Albert Gate, Southampton, London SW1X 7AZ
Fax: 071 235 6713 Telex: 94015801 WATC B
Telephone: 071 235 1324 (11 Lines)

BRICK COURT CHAMBERS

15-19 DEVEREUX COURT, LONDON WC2R 3JJ

The Chambers of Christopher Clarke Q.C. invite applications to join them from juniors who have been in practice for 2-5 years. Candidates should have experience in the fields of Commercial Law, Public Law or EEC Law.

Please write in strictest confidence to:

CHRISTOPHER CLARKE Q.C.
BRICK COURT CHAMBERS
15-19 DEVEREUX COURT
LONDON WC2R 3JJ

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INSOLVENCY To £70,000
Exciting opportunity for insolvency lawyers at all levels to join rapidly expanding medium sized Central London firm with strong corporate client base.

BUILDING/PROPERTY LIT £CITY
2-3 year qualified high calibre litigator sought by City firm offering responsibility and challenging construction and property litigation caseload.

EMPLOYMENT To £35,000
Bright and assertive employment lawyer up to 2 years qualified sought by leading international City firm. Excellent prospects.

TAX To £70,000
Flourishing Corporate Department of international medium sized City firm has urgent requirement for corporate tax specialist at or near partnership level. Excellent quality work. Highly profitable practice.

CAPITAL MARKETS To £62,000
Pre-eminent City banking practice developing its capital markets expertise seeks lawyer for key role in Group. Partner designate position.

SHIPPING £PREMIUM
Leading City shipping firm seeks further litigators at all levels for wet and dry mix. Quality caseload. Substantial foreign travel.



For further information in relation to these or the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Jonathan Brenner or Jonathan Macrae (both solicitors) on 071-628 0494 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Hay at Law, 6 Broad Street Place, Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7JH.

COMPLIANCE To £55,000 + BENS.
This 'blue chip' merchant bank in the City requires a high calibre lawyer to deal with a broad range of compliance matters relating to corporate finance, investment banking and equity markets.

COMMERCIAL To £33,000 + CAR
This major pharmaceutical company based in central London requires a solicitor or barrister to advise management on a wide range of issues including intellectual property. Some overseas travel will be involved.

COMMERCIAL To £40K PACKAGE
This pharmaceutical company, based in Middlesex, requires a legal adviser to handle commercial work including intellectual property and some company secretarial matters. There is the opportunity to progress into management.

The above are only a small selection from the positions we are currently instructed to fill. All approaches are treated in the strictest confidence and we never send out your CV without your express consent.

SURREY To £30,000
This established firm in Epsom requires a solicitor with relevant experience to handle commercial litigation, mainly on behalf of finance companies including consumer credit matters.

AVIATION To £55,000
A 3 to 4 year qualified solicitor is sought by this substantial London firm to handle all aspects of aviation finance for airlines, leasing companies, aircraft manufacturers and banks.

CONSTRUCTION To £45,000
This international firm of lawyers based in central London requires a construction lawyer to handle the drafting and negotiation of construction, engineering and commercial contracts.

LAURENCE SIMONS ASSOCIATES
Legal Recruitment

PORTSMOUTH To £35,000 + CAR
This financial services company, involved in pensions, unit trusts and life assurance, requires a deputy company solicitor or barrister with at least 3 years' experience to act as general legal adviser.

EXETER/BHAM. To £33,000 + CAR
This major UK plc requires two solicitors or barristers, each with at least 2 years' experience to handle a wide range of problems and queries, drafting agreements and advising on contractual issues.

PATENTS To £45,000 + CAR
This major US company in Leicester requires a patent manager to file and prosecute patent applications. The appointee will have sole responsibility, and will report to senior management in the USA.

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LAW TIMES

TUESDAY MAY 28 1991

Alexander McCall Smith observes a shift in court attitudes to the voice of the young

An end to the rights of the parent?

Abortion is an issue that will not go away. The recent decision by Mr Justice Hellewell, a 12-year-old girl, known as L, to have an abortion against her mother's wishes is bound to provoke further criticism by those anti-abortionists who see it as inflicting on a child a procedure about which she is incapable of making a proper decision.

Others may argue that giving birth, not having an abortion, is the main danger in such a case, and that abortion represents the lesser evil.

The judge clearly leaned in this direction. Abortion, he said, was in the child's best interests, and these were paramount.

What makes this case noteworthy is the girl's age. Note-ably, she is hardly surprised that children of that age have sexual intercourse. The father, who favoured abortion, was a worldly 16. What is interesting is that parental views were overridden in the case of such a young child.

In a similar case in 1982, a girl aged 15 wanted an abortion in the face of parental objection. The court allowed it and Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss said: "I am satisfied that she wants this abortion. She understands the implications of it. Indeed, she went so far as to say she will be guilty about it later - after it happens - but that she will live with the guilt of it and she is very anxious it should happen."

The difference between that case and the case of L is that a 15-year-old can have a view on a medical procedure and give a reasonably well informed consent to it. A 12-year-old, by contrast, often cannot do so, and normally in such circumstances the parent must make up for this deficit in consent.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the L case it is a further example of the erosion of parental rights over minor children. For a long time English law has accepted that parental rights are subject to considerations of the child's welfare, and in exercising these rights a parent must be guided by what is in the child's best interests. So is there any room at all for parental rights, or is the parental role restricted to rubber-stamping what society, in the shape of social workers or the courts, considers to be in the child's

best interests? Today, on medical matters, at least, parental rights seem relatively unimportant, and the medical profession apparently has the final say on any contested issue of the treatment of children.

Some will argue that parental rights are still significant, yet it is difficult to see them having influence in any contested matter. Is there any important respect in which a parent can hold out against medical orthodoxy when it comes to the treatment of a child and when the state has become involved in the dispute? Probably not.

On contraception, the principle established in the Gillick case, which allowed doctors to prescribe contraceptives to a girl under 16 without informing the parents, is clear: a minor may be given contraception against parental wishes, provided the conditions laid down in the House of Lords judgment are met. In practice, girls aged under 16 are administered contraceptives without parental knowledge in almost all cases in which such confidentiality is sought by the child.

The Gillick decision affects more areas than contraception. The ruling establishes that the child aged under 16 may consent to medical treatment provided he or she is capable of understanding the implications of the treatment. This means that parental objections to medical procedures could be irrelevant if the child is capable of giving consent. Strictly speaking, then, parental powers of veto are restricted to cases where the child, because of age or immaturity, is incapable of giving a proper consent. Even in cases where the child is too young to give consent, the parent's views may be disregarded if they constitute any real threat to the child's welfare. On refusal of blood transfusions, the courts have shown themselves ready to override religiously inspired parental objections, and the same outcome might be expected in any case where there is a parental veto on other forms of life-saving treatment. A parental refusal to consent can also be overcome in situations involving medical examination for suspected sexual abuse. Here



ERIC BEALMON

there is no threat to the child's life, and the motive for the examination might not necessarily be the provision of treatment. In the L case, too, the issue was not unambiguously one of life and death.

So do parental rights have any weight in the medical sphere? A parent probably still has the right to decide on elective procedures, for example, whether cosmetic surgery should be carried out, but on anything above this level the

'For a child with a cranky parent, this might be exactly what the doctor would order'

would involve a serious risk to her health?

If the law were consistent, a child capable of consenting to a procedure should be able to decline it. Yet it is difficult to see the courts allowing a child to pursue a course of self-destructive action, and in such a case, one suspects, the courts would be slow to infer competence on the child's part, thereby effectively stopping a child from being "unreasonable".

The trumping factor would be what medical evidence says is in the best interests of the child; other considerations would probably be secondary. There is nothing inherently wrong in the law allowing the best interests of the child to outweigh parental rights, but parental

rights should be aware of the broader implications of the trend. Some parents might argue that an important part of parenthood is to give children moral guidance and prevent their doing wrong. Such parents may be out of step with the current consensus on contraception and abortion, but their convictions may be strongly held.

To a parent who considers abortion morally wrong - perhaps even amounting to homicide - allowing a child an abortion might amount to condoning the child's participation in murder. Do we have the right to override such a belief since it affects that

law is likely to back the medical view of what is best for the child. In such cases everything will depend on whether the parent can be said to be exercising his or her rights reasonably.

In the case involving abortion for the 15-year-old, and in the L case, the child's wishes were taken into account by the court in reaching a decision. They accorded with the medical view of what was desirable. But what if a girl aged 13 or 14 wanted to proceed with a pregnancy in the face of a parental desire for abortion and despite medical evidence that allowing the pregnancy to proceed to term

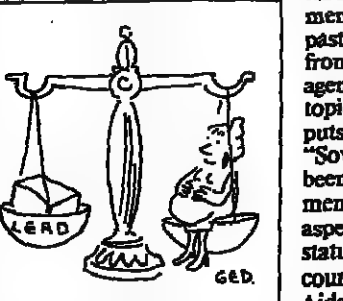
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families of the three people killed in the Gibraltar SAS case, and Mary Pike, of New York, now involved in the extradition from the United States of Joe Doherty, an action that has continued for several years. They will take part in a seminar on the transnational criminal alongside such other speakers as the secretary-general of Interpol, Raymond Kendall. The association hopes to finalise plans at Munich for creating an international network of lawyers called on to defend people accused of transnational crimes.

Glasnost law
MANY Soviet legal documents and laws issued in the past year are now available from Novosti, the news agency, in translation. The topics show, as the agency puts it, the extent to which the "Soviet legal landscape has been transformed". The documents cover almost every aspect of Soviet life, from the status of judges to contempt of court, from the prevention of Aids to freedom of conscience and religious organisations.

Good food society
THE Law Society is now serving breakfast for members, which it says "in value is far superior to similar menus offered by city centre hotels and restaurants". The choice is a continental menu for £2, or a full English breakfast of fruit juice, cereals, bacon, egg, sausage, tomatoes and mushrooms for £3.50. Perhaps the society should consider a gym to help its members work off those extra calories.



how the law is applied in Britain at present. The Dekker ruling has yet to be applied to a British case, but it seems to open the door to a challenge to any European health and safety policies that exclude women of child-bearing age from certain occupations.

Defence case
TWO lawyers specialising in the defence of alleged IRA terrorists will speak at the International Bar Association's conference in Munich in July. They are Patrick McGrory, of Belfast, best known for representing the

Why judges ought to rule on libel

A JURY recently concluded that the Conservative MP Edwina Currie had been libelled by an article in *The Observer*, one sentence of which compared her to a highly unpleasant fictional character. The jury awarded her damages of £5,000.

I hope her solicitors will accept that it is lawful to mention Mrs Currie in the same sentence as Winnie Mandela, convicted a day earlier on charges of kidnapping and being an accessory to assault, and sentenced to six years in prison. The cases are linked because they each focus attention on the defects of jury trial and the benefits of trial by judge alone.

Until 1854, all civil claims for damages in the common law courts were tried by jury. Now, civil cases almost never involve juries except where the plaintiff alleges fraud, libel, slander, malicious prosecution or false imprisonment. In March, the Court of Appeal declined to allow a jury to assess the measure of damages in a highly distressing personal injuries case - a man's penis had been amputated by reason of the defendant's negligence. Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, said it would be wrong to require a jury to perform the "almost impossible task" of awarding appropriate compensation when they are unaware of the scale of damages in other cases. To this principle of English law, as to so many others, libel is an anomalous exception.

Mrs Currie's victory is the latest in a long line of petty cases in which litigants have been prepared to gamble substantial legal costs and to revive for public consumption years after the publication minor slights that would otherwise have been long forgotten.

The law ought to be discouraging such litigation. As leading counsel submitted to the Court of Appeal in 1987, "the courts were not the place to deal with someone's sense of grievance that another person has been rude in print about their bottom".

Libel law provides more than its fair share of entertainment for the public, from Mr Justice Causfield's lecture, in the Jeffrey Archer case, on the unattractive nature of "rubber-insulated sex", to Mr Justice Michael Davies's enquiry, during the action by Andrew Neil, the *Sunday Times* editor, against *The Sunday Telegraph*: "What is an ageing bimbo?"

Adding to the gaiety of nations, however, cannot excuse the extravagant sums juries can be persuaded to award to plaintiffs. Until we amend the law of libel root and branch, a good start on modifying its arbitrary restrictions on freedom of expression would be to impose trial by judge alone. That would even up the contest

between plaintiff and defendant, and it would result in more realistic, that is lower, awards of compensation.

One of the oddities of libel law is that the tariff of damages for personal injuries, where real damage has been done to a plaintiff, is not directly relevant in assessing libel awards. However, to remain blissfully unaware of that scale, as juries are, is to adopt the "values of the duel", as Lord Justice Diplock complained in 1964.

The real objection to jury trial is the absence of a reasoned decision. In the 1989 appeal by *Private Eye* against the size of the libel award to Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, Lord Donaldson observed: "Juries do not give reasons for their awards, and it is the common experience of judges that having to give reasons is something which puts a substantial premium on ensuring that the head rules the heart." Because the jury gives no more than its verdict, and because the law refuses to allow jury decisions later to be challenged by evidence about what occurred in the privacy of the jury room, there is ample opportunity for a jury to exercise its prejudices.

The crimes and punishment of Mrs Mandela are relevant to this issue because she was convicted by a judge alone. South African criminal justice has one considerable advantage over that dispensed at the Central Criminal Court: Mrs Mandela knows precisely why she was convicted. She can, if leave is granted, appeal against the detailed findings of fact made by the judge. A fair procedure requires that reasons be given for any important decision so as to assist such a process of appeal.

It has long been a shibboleth of liberal legal thinking that trial by jury is a fundamental protection against arbitrary state action, and a means of ensuring that legal standards accord with common values. Lawyers, however, refer disparagingly to a "good jury point", precisely because it is one that lacks real relevance or force but will have a superficial attraction to those who lack the training or experience to appreciate its defects.

Trial by jury, civil or criminal, is an institution the virtues and defects of which deserve careful reconsideration. It is expensive, it imposes considerable burdens on lay people, and it detracts from the ability of the law to achieve the objective of supplying rational, consistent and reasoned responses to legal disputes. And that, even in a libel case, is no laughing matter.

© The author is a barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK

Europe keeps the door ajar

THE right of British lawyers to open offices in Europe had a serious setback in Dublin this month. The Council of the Bars of Europe failed to obtain the necessary 10-2 majority for its draft directive on lawyers' rights of establishment across the European Community.

Observers indicate, however, that there is some shift in favour of the draft. The Luxembourg delegation remained true to form with a resounding No vote. The French and Spanish delegations also voted against. The French, however, indicated they were movable, although nobody knows on what terms. The Spanish said they had decided to wait and evaluate the effect of the European Community directive on mutual recognition of diplomas, which could take years. The Greeks abstained, but for some reason said they would support the draft if their vote was the decider. "Will the European Commission now bite the bullet and give a ruling?"

Surprise party
WHEN a firm says it is making lawyers redundant, the last thing you expect to see is an expensive bit of corporate entertaining. So it was with some surprise that readers of *The Times City Diary* learnt of the decision by London solicitors McKenna & Co to host a wondrous day for clients at Kirtons Farm

country club at the end of the month. Will the firm invite the 13 or so assistant solicitors it laid off earlier this year because of the recession?

Gib joins in

THE Gibraltar government was extremely quick off the mark in responding to Britain's invitation to dependencies to have the order bringing in new extradition arrangements applied to them. Gibraltar has asked the Foreign Office to implement the extension as soon as possible. The government there prides itself on its policy of co-operation in combating international crime, particularly on drugs-related offences.

Gender poser

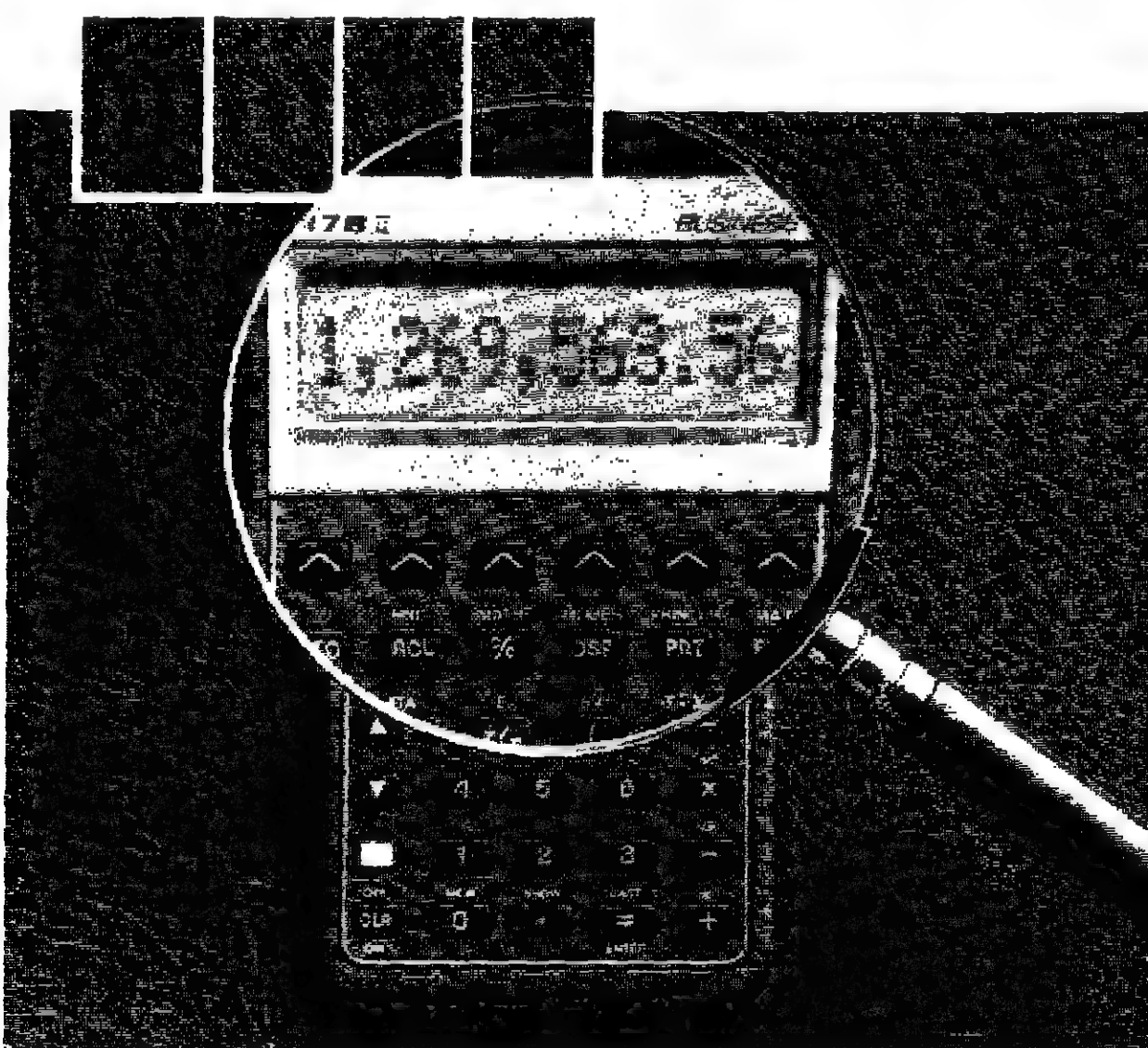
SHOULD a company be allowed a policy of barring women of child-bearing age from certain hazardous occupations? Or should women themselves be able to choose the risks to which they are willing to expose themselves? In a surprise unanimous decision in the case of *International Union, United Automobile Workers v Johnson Controlled Inc*, the American Supreme Court has ruled that an employer cannot force a woman to choose between having a child and having a job. Johnson Controlled's "foetal protection policy", which excluded women of child-bearing age from certain highly paid jobs involving exposure to lead, was discriminatory on the grounds of

sex and therefore unlawful, the court said. The court noted that the policy did not apply to fertile men, even though men's fertility is known to be affected by exposure to lead. The ruling reflects that of the European Court of Justice in the Dekker case last November. The court held that dismissing or failing to employ a woman because she is pregnant is sex discrimination *per se* rather than discrimination by analogy with a sick man, which is



how the law is applied in Britain at present. The Dekker ruling has yet to be applied to a British case, but it seems to open the door to a challenge to any European health and safety policies that exclude women of child-bearing age from certain occupations.

Defence case
TWO lawyers specialising in the defence of alleged IRA terrorists will speak at the International Bar Association's conference in Munich in July. They are Patrick McGrory, of Belfast, best known for representing the



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A case of contempt in court

The Bar council wants to make the courts less daunting. Tamara Goriely reports

A woman complained to a team of researchers: "We sat and we waited. We sat and we waited. I didn't know that there was anywhere open for a cup of coffee. The baby was screaming for her feed, and the other kids were bouncing up and down on the chairs. It was a draining experience."

This quote, typical of those collected by the researchers at Bristol university, sums up many people's experience of going to court. Never mind the hearing, the wait is enough to leave people in a bad mood, exhausted and with a poor impression of British justice.

Other surveys of county and magistrates' courts list common complaints by the public. Courts are not properly signposted, so one in five people has difficulty in finding them. Arrive at a busy time, and "it is tedious". Solicitors shout people's names out while litigants try to work out where they are meant to be.

The practice of listing all the day's cases together at 10am arouses strong passions. One respondent said: "I was resentful at having to sit there all that time, and I was worried about the children... That made me angry because it is so unnecessary."

The Welsh Consumer Council has shown that, from the court's point of view, it is just as efficient to list short appointments in quarter-hour or half-hour batches,

and that can cut waiting times from two and a half hours to 20 minutes.

At their best, waiting rooms are carpeted, clean and featureless. In the worst magistrates' courts, people sit on hard benches in dingy corridors.

One divorcee said: "The room had an atmosphere of being neglected and forgotten. They probably clean it, but the area gave the appearance of not having been cleaned." Magistrates' courts may have a volunteer coffee stall but county courts rarely offer anything to drink.

Court rules state that most family and debt hearings should be held in private. This fails to achieve its purpose, however, if those in the waiting room can overhear delicate pre-court negotiations. Half of those using the county court expressed worries that they were expected to explain their business at the court counter, where other people could hear. Complaints were made, too, about having to wait with an ex-partner or negotiate divorces "in Paddington station".

Why are court waiting facilities so bad? The standard response is, of course, "lack of resources". Some important improvements, such as full access for the disabled and more interview rooms, involve building work, but much could be done with thought and some petty cash. Signposts would



tell people where to go. Posters and magazines would liven up drab waiting rooms. Drinks machines and an adequate number of payphones could be provided on a self-financing basis. They might even generate enough profit to buy a display sign offering people the possibility of a private discussion.

Much of the problem is that few people in the court system care about those using it. Judges and magistrates, entering court by a special door, probably never see the waiting room. Lawyers easily get used to courts. A client put it this way: "For solicitors, it is their life. They are doing it all the time and they do not realise what it involves for outsiders. The solicitor would say to me, 'Don't worry, it's nothing.' But to me it was chaos."

For court staff, individual litigants can be a problem. Litigants are confused, rarely reply to letters, wander about lost and do not turn

up. Helping users of courts may be seen as less important than meeting the stringent targets of the Lord Chancellor's department for processing paper work. One chief clerk complained that he could not display the explanatory booklets and leaflets he was sent because children played with them. They became torn and dirty and the cleaners complained about picking them up. Alternatively, such as toys for the children and leaflets make out of their reach, had not occurred to him.

There are hopeful signs, however. Chief clerks are showing a new readiness to listen. Half the clerks surveyed in Wales told the consumer council they would welcome advisory committees of lay people.

At last the Bar Council is throwing its weight behind the campaign for improvements and setting up a working party. Good luck to it.

© The author is a researcher with the Legal Action Group

Many law firms in recent years have regarded big as being beautiful. But now quality not size is the watchword for business in the Nineties

When the Channel 3 franchise applications were handed to the Independent Television Commission earlier this month, three out of the 40 bore the hallmark of the firm Simon Olswang. This is just the kind of neat statistic that goes down well when law firms are trying to carve a niche in the solicitors' pecking order.

Caroline Kean, a Simon Olswang partner, can give other impressive figures. According to the *Legal 500*, the firm is one of the "top five" to watch. Among media lawyers Simon Olswang is regarded as one of the "top two" entertainment practices in Britain.

The constant juggling with rating figures is one of the characteristics of the present corporate law scene.

Significantly, however, Olswang does not talk about its size. With only ten partners, the firm scarcely registers on any league table based on numbers. Yet there has been a tendency among lawyers in recent years to talk obsessively about size. Hence, when the Scottish practice McLure Naismith Anderson & Gardiner opened in London a fortnight ago, it was obliged to head its announcement: "Top ten Scottish law firm undeterred by London market barriers."

The philosophy of the pop chart has entered the soul of the lawyer. However, while pop records are based on measurable sales, the expensive top five, top ten, top 20 are among the most abused in the legal world's vocabulary.

The correlation between size and quality is unproven and certainly bears no relation to fee income per partner or other grandly quantifiable measures of success. Unfortunately, there is good evidence that the drive for rapid growth simply to move up league tables of size has forced many firms into over-expansion in recent years.

The results in some cases have been disastrous. Firms that would describe themselves as being in the top 20 are having to make redun-

Pitfalls of being top of the pops

dant 50 per cent of their newly qualified solicitors. The penalty for partners' preoccupation with size is being paid by those least able to bear the pain.

The idea of status based on numbers may be starting to go sour. In the business world at large this lesson has already been learnt. Saatchi & Saatchi, IBM and ICI have found that their size has made them more vulnerable rather than less so.

As the recession wears on, therefore, it will be revealing to see which firms can maintain their



'Our strikingly red brochure expresses something about us'

Caroline Kean

current scale. Partners, of course, will not be easy to get rid of but the casualty rate among assistant solicitors is mounting fast.

Ideally, in line with the "new age" of the Nineties, there should perhaps be a move away from gigantism back to concepts such as sustainability of size, quality of work and the character of a firm. "Critical mass" may be important to achieve for research, training and computers, but the simplistic idea of growth and size for its own sake, with the concomitant management problems, is likely to appear increasingly as a liability.

David Temporal, a consultant with Hodgson Temporal and Company, has already cautioned that the accountability model of growth much beloved of many lawyers contains, in fact, negative lessons. The size of the Big Six accountants has required rigid systematisation to ensure quality control. In effect, the management style required by large organisations, he argues, squeezes out room for original thought and creativity.

David Stuart, of the design group The Partners, which has produced brochures in recent years for firms as different as Clifford Chance, Wilde Sapte and Lewis Silkin, gives an interesting angle on this. Scanning the prevailing corporate images in the legal services industry, he observes that the urge to conform means that few firms have the courage to say anything original or innovative about themselves.

By contrast, the best brochure and the best firms, Mr Stuart says, convey creativity and originality. Significantly, Simon Olswang boasts a highly distinctive brochure. "It is strikingly red in colour, people always tell us," Ms Kean says, "but we feel it expresses something about us."

Character, quality and sustainability. Should these be the new watchwords for the Nineties?

EDWARD FENNELL

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued from page 26

Continued on page 30

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A Generation of Litigators
Decisions taken by newly-qualified solicitors on the area of law in which they wish to practise should, ideally, be based on an assessment of their abilities and on future trends within the profession. In reality, these decisions are inevitably determined by the immediate pressures of the moment. The scope for career planning is strictly circumscribed. Two years ago, the newly-qualified lawyers we interviewed would be strongly attracted to corporate finance, banking, and commercial conveyancing. And they would be right: that is where they could earn good money and achieve quick promotion. Today, their preferences have changed. Newly-qualified lawyers now feel attracted to litigation or insolvency work, while corporate finance and conveyancing have lost their charm.

In the past six months or so, we have not seen many article clerks or newly-qualified solicitors expressing an interest in conveyancing. They are avoiding this area of the law. At the moment, of course, this does not present a problem. Commercial property looks unlikely to recover within the next twelve months. In the longer term, however, expanding property practices will be faced with a serious recruitment crisis: a whole generation of young conveyancers will be missing. On the other hand, so many young lawyers are now going into litigation that a surplus of litigators could emerge when the current surge of contentious work subsides. A number of them, forgetting the peculiar circumstances of 1991, may then ask themselves why they chose this area of law in the first place when non-contentious work would have suited them so much better.

Michael Chambers

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Development of working procedures of both the Course Board and Monitoring Panels, and subsequent monitoring of the courses themselves ■ Preparation of the Board's annual report ■ Continuing to develop the Society's close relations with teaching institutions ■ Development work on teaching methods and assessment of practical legal skills ■ Instigating relationships with bodies concerned with quality assurance issues within higher education.

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and vocational courses in law at first degree level and above. Professional qualifications and experience would be an added advantage.

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Applications with a full CV including the names of three referees, one of whom should be an academic referee, should be submitted by Monday 17th June 1991. All applications will be acknowledged within 7 days of this date.

First interviews will be held week commencing 8th July 1991. Second interviews if required will be arranged as soon as possible thereafter.

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LEGAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Westminster Bank

Business Accounts
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National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 28 May 1991:

Solicitors Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Rate*
	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	
10.00%	£250,000 and above	10.38%
9.875%	£100,000 - £249,999	10.25%
9.625%	£25,000 - £99,999	9.98%
9.00%	£2,000 - £24,999	9.31%
6.375%	£500 - £1,999	6.53%

* Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which will be paid gross). Subject to the required registration form, interest payments are retained in the account.

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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report May 28 1991

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Consent requirement unlawful

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Knowsley Borough Council
Same v Same, Ex parte York City Council
Same v Same, Ex parte Leicester City Council
Before Mr Justice Popplewell
[Judgment May 15]

When the Secretary of State for the Environment was deciding whether a local authority was acting against the interests of competition in its assessment of tenders for the carrying out of council functions, the question was raised on judicial review whether the view taken by the secretary of state was reasonable and not whether the steps by which the local authority had arrived at its decision were reasonable.

The requirement by the secretary of state in his notice under section 14 of the Local Government Act 1988 that having fulfilled requirements made under section 7 the council should seek his consent before continuing to carry out the functions was *ultra vires*.

Mr Justice Popplewell held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting in part judicial review sought by Knowsley Borough Council, York City Council and Leicester City Council of requirements made by the secretary of state under section 14 of the 1988 Act.

Mr Robert Carruthers, QC and Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for Knowsley and York; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Hodge, QC for Leicester; Mr John Laws and Miss Presley Baxendale for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the purpose of the Local Government Act 1988 was to ensure that local authorities and other public authorities undertook certain activities only if they could do so competitively.

To carry out those activities, which included refuse collection, the authority had to fulfil six conditions set out in section 7. The fifth was that in deciding to carry out work itself, through its direct labour organisation (DLO) it "did not act in a manner having the effect or

intended or likely to have the effect of restricting, distorting or preventing competition". Under section 13, if the local authority had carried out work and any of the conditions had not been fulfilled, the secretary of state could issue a notice informing it that he took that view and requiring a written response with a statement justifying that statement.

Section 14 then came into operation and by it, if the secretary of state was still not satisfied that the conditions had in fact been fulfilled, he might direct that the authority "cease to have the power to carry out such work" or only carry it out if it complied with the conditions set out in the notice.

Knowsley Borough Council had invited tenders for refuse collection and had received two; one from its own DLO for £1,924,936.08 and the other from a company named Sitaclean Technology plc for £1,581,197.10.

The authority set up an evaluation panel. There was no question as to the bona fides in considering the tenders of this authority or of the others. The panel recommended that the DLO be accepted (i) for technical reasons, being broadly that the DLO was more capable of doing the job more satisfactorily and (ii) that other costs likely to be taken into account the resulting figures meant that the DLO bid was lower.

A section 13 notice followed and after exchanges with the council a section 14 notice was issued, its terms requiring that the authority might have its DLO carry out the work only if all the conditions of section 7 were fulfilled and the council obtained the consent of the secretary of state to carry out the work.

The applicants claimed that that condition was *ultra vires* the secretary of state's powers under the Act.

There could be no doubt that the secretary of state was a judge as to whether or not the conditions had been fulfilled and so, under section 13, whether to issue a notice.

Section 14 depended on section 13 so as to make the judicial review of Richard Franklin's decision of the chairman of the council to reject his application to stay proceedings for five firearms offences charged against him.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that there was no authority for the proposition that the effect of obtaining the voluntary bill of indictment was to remove all the proceedings from the magistrates court to the crown court and that the charges could be adjourned sine die could not be reactivated.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Russell and Mr Justice Hodgson) so held on May 9 in dismissing the application for

secretary of state the judge under that section too. Whether the fifth condition, under section 7, had been fulfilled was a matter for him alone.

There were four figures, including provision for enhanced pensions, the effect of reappointed management and supervision costs and a figure for the cancellation of vehicle licences, which the council took into account in adjusting its tender figure to a figure below that of Sitaclean.

It claimed that those were costs which would fall on the council if Sitaclean had the contract and therefore amounted to a figure which it was proper to take into account when evaluating the tenders.

It was argued that because a local authority could not go out into the market place it could not therefore look to utilise surplus resources in the market place.

It had been for his Lordship to lay down the proper approach on principle it would be that the local authority was entitled to take into account costs incurred as a result of the contract going outside, that is, those costs which properly flowed directly from losing the contract.

However, that was not his function which was to decide whether the secretary of state was unreasonable.

By section 14, the secretary of state could not have an authority from doing certain type of work itself. Here he had not but had required it to fulfil all the conditions in section 7 and that it seek his consent before continuing to perform the work itself.

Mr Carruthers and Mr Sullivan both submitted that while the secretary of state had increased power and could so have the local authority, the second requirement was beyond his powers.

Mr Laws contended that because the authority had already notifiably been in breach of the secretary of state was going to police the Act and if he was satisfied, the authority could go ahead without involving the whole procedure of sections 13 and 14.

It was clearly unsatisfactory that if the secretary of state was unhappy about the further conclusion to which the local authority had come in response to the terms of his notice, the whole process of sections 13 and 14 should be brought into play again. It would be simpler if he could simply say go ahead but the conditions in section 7 depended on the statute and that gave clear instructions as to what might or might not be done.

There seemed to be a lacuna in the Act. What seemed to be the secretary of state's duty if the local authority failed to comply with the condition in section 7 and the only statutory sanction was contained in section 13?

The Act gave the secretary of state the power to issue a notice under section 13, if he was not satisfied that the conditions had been fulfilled and so, under section 13, whether to issue a notice.

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Police station forms misled motorist

Hudson v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Russell and Mr Justice Hodgson
[Judgment May 20]

The court should have considered whether to exercise its discretion under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to exclude evidence of a defendant's refusal to provide two specimens of breath until after he had seen a solicitor where on arrival at the police station he had been provided with forms stating that he had a right to see a solicitor "at any time".

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Director of Public Prosecutions against the rejection of his appeal by York Crown Court (Judge Hunt and Justices) against his conviction by Ripon Liberty Justices for failing to provide two specimens of breath until after he had seen a solicitor.

When asked whether he agreed to provide two specimens of breath of breath, contrary to section 8(7) of the Road Traffic

Act 1972, as inserted by section 25 of and Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981. The case was remitted to the crown court for reconsideration.

Mr Adrian Robinson for the appellant; Mr Stephen Twist for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the defendant had been arrested after failing a roadside breath test.

At the police station he had been given two forms, one produced by the Law Society and the other by the North Yorkshire Police, informing him of his rights while at the police station. Both stated that he had a right to see a solicitor "at any time".

The defendant was at the police station for an hour before the breath test procedure was begun. During that time the police had been trying to get him a solicitor.

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Heritage is where their hearts should lie

A new breed of professional with specific management skill is taking over the running of our historical sites, Widget Finn reports

Callie Saxty's office is in Pendennis castle, Falmouth, Cornwall, built as part of Henry VIII's coastal defences. Ms Saxty, an area custodian for English Heritage, has in her care places such as an Iron Age settlement, a 16th century holy well and Tintagel castle, the legendary home of King Arthur. After working in the theatre, Ms Saxty joined the department of the environment in 1980 as custodian of Finchale priory in Durham. She had no staff and her duties included selling entrance tickets, cutting the grass, keeping the accounts and dealing with the occasional problem of vandalism. "I had to learn the job as I went along," she says, "but English Heritage, which took over from the environment department, encourages staff to attend training courses, which include customer development, merchandising and conservation."

Only recently has heritage management been given official career status, with degree courses and qualifications.

People working in properties open to the public come from a variety of backgrounds. "Rather surprisingly," says Martin Drury, historic buildings secretary to the National Trust, "we don't require

candidates to have a museum training or specialist knowledge of old buildings. We look for management experience and a skill in dealing with people."

The options for those who want a more structured qualification in heritage management are still limited. The Ironbridge Institute in Shropshire offers a joint diploma and master's degree, a 12-month course which can be taken over four years. "Heritage management is an area where enthusiasm or interest is no longer enough," says Dr Barrie Trinder, senior fellow at the institute. "The public expects professional standards. Our students look at marketing, basic accounting, especially for non-profit-making organisations, and the essentials of managing our heritage."

A more specialised one-year graduate diploma, in heritage interpretation, is offered by St Mary's College at Twickenham, near London. The emphasis is on the practical skills in presenting heritage properties to the public. Students learn how to make personal tape-player tours, organise exhibitions, produce trails and write guidebooks.

John Iddon, the course director, says: "Half the students are recent graduates, but the others are



Preserving a rich heritage: Carolyn Fooks (see profile right) at Eym Hall, which opens next year

mainly in their thirties or forties, one is sixty. They have a variety of first degrees, history of art to drama, but the most important criterion is the commitment they show to the subject of heritage. All our students have had some voluntary experience, such as working in a historic house or going on an archaeological dig."

Graham Hicks started his career in heritage management, after 12 years in the ambulance service, by working as a volunteer at a local stately home. He was studying for an Open University degree in history, and a weekend stay in a Landmark Trust property fired his enthusiasm. He started at the bottom of the National Trust's management ladder as house steward at Oxburgh Hall in Norfolk.

Four years later, with experience as assistant in a larger property behind him, he is administrator of Follis Hall in Norfolk, which attracts 60,000 visitors a year. Mr Hicks says that running a National Trust house requires several skills. As administrator, he has financial responsibility for the property. He needs a commercial approach while being aware of the

conservation needs of the property and the pressures put on it by public access. He must motivate a team of 70 volunteers and 30 National Trust staff. In the summer, working hours are long: weekends are the busiest.

Living "over the shop" means that there is little privacy, and the free, albeit magnificent, accommodation is reflected in salaries, which start at about £14,000.

What are the career prospects for someone who wants to manage a historical property? Mr Hicks, aged 37, admits that he is younger than the average National Trust administrator.

English Heritage has several small properties with a single custodian and at least half the organisation's recruits are women. As well as publicly owned historical sites there is an increasing number of private properties which are opening to visitors.

"We are all becoming more aware of the value of our heritage sites," Mr Iddon says. "There is a diverse and exciting range of opportunities for people with an enthusiasm to present our historical inheritance to the public."

Further information from: St Mary's College, Walsgrave Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 4SX (081-892 0051); Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW (0952 4327 51); English Heritage, Fortess House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB (071-973 3000); National Trust, 36 St Anne's Gate, London SW1E 9AS (071-222 9251).

PROFILE

CAROLYN FOOKS spent the morning sifting through the contents of an ancient desk. She found hundreds of old photographs, a balance for weighing gold sovereigns and a 20-year-old letter from Nikolaus Pevsner, the authority on historic properties, making an appointment to visit the house, Eym Hall in Derbyshire.

It was typical, she says, of each working day, which produces a combination of valuable discoveries mixed with rubbish. In 1992, the house will be opened to the public. Ms Fooks, the administrator, describes her job as being "responsible for everything that needs to be done to prepare it for viewing."

This includes overseeing builders working on restoration and cataloguing 300 years of possessions belonging to the Wright family, which has lived at Eym since the house was built in 1672.

Ms Fooks, an Oxford history graduate, joined a work placement scheme at the National Trust's Haddon Hall, Derbyshire, as part of her diploma course in heritage interpretation at St Mary's College, Twickenham, near London. The experience in all aspects of opening a property to the public, led to her appointment, at the age of 24, as administrator of Eym.

"My training has given me a knowledge of how to conserve historical items," she says. "But I call in specialists for picture and metal restoration, or experts on furniture and photography."

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Chief Executive

to £72,500 plus July pay award

Leicestershire is a large local authority with over 37,000 staff and an annual revenue budget in excess of £630 million. The current Chief Executive, Sam Jones, has been appointed Town Clerk of the City of London and the County Council is now seeking to appoint a successor.

The County is set in the centre of England, with a population of some 892,000, and a strong manufacturing base. It is an area of great variety and natural beauty, and also contains significant urban centres such as Leicester City and Loughborough.

In a rapidly changing environment for local government Leicestershire County Council has adopted a systematic approach for planning, budgeting and review of all services. It is intended that the new Chief Executive should continue and develop this approach, providing effective leadership to the Council's management.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for you to lead this large local authority in a period of rapid change. You must be able to demonstrate a successful track record of management in a complex organisation and should also possess a sound appreciation of the democratic process.

Please contact: Jacqui Harman, MSL Group Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL (Tel: 071-487 5000) for further information, quoting reference 34524. Completed applications should be submitted to the above address no later than 14th June 1991.

Equal Opportunities Policy: Applications are welcome from people regardless of their race, ethnic origin, sex, marital status or disability; disabled applicants will be guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced, and supported by a recognised agency eg a DRO.

MSL International
CONSULTANTS IN SEARCH AND SELECTION

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued from page 28

EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

U.K. Solicitor, Law Society Member for London/Oxford area office. Business background a plus, opportunity for rapid advancement to partner. 18,000 - 24,000 per annum depending on experience. C.V. to Partner, P.O. Box 311, Bushy, Wotton WD2 3LT

Major Legal Practice in Sussex with space available in premier location on South Coast seeks to obtain Private Client or other departmental work from London or other city practice through absorbing the whole or part of a department and/or individual fee earners.

Please apply to Box No: 3930



LEGAL ASSISTANT

The N.F.U. requires a legal graduate to provide advice and guidance to its former members on a wide range of legal topics and to administer the N.F.U. Legal Assistance Scheme in East Anglia.

Joining an established regional team, you will report formally to the Regional Director, but work under the day-to-day guidance of the Technical Adviser.

This is an opportunity to work across a broad spectrum of agriculturally related issues with a high degree of involvement and the position offers significant promotion prospects within the N.F.U.

Salary c. £13,500 per annum according to age & experience.

Driving licence essential.

Please apply in writing to Jackie Romain, Personnel Administrator, N.F.U., Agriculture House, Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7NJ for a job description and application form.

LEEDS - WHAT RECEPTION?

Leeds firms have traditionally attracted first class city and major practice lawyers and although the economic climate is currently having a definite adverse effect on most cities, Leeds firms are continuing to expand and looking to appoint new talent.

NEWLY QUALIFIED

A unique opportunity working with the Senior Partner of a large practice handling a mixed case load predominantly Personal Tax. Previous Tax experience is not necessarily required. Personally progress within this major firm are extremely rapid for self-motivated individuals and particularly for this position.

PLANNING

Two leading firms in this field are looking to appoint experienced Planning Lawyers, strong in advisory work and litigious for Partnership. One of the appointments could be immediate.

CORPORATE & BANKING

A major international practice with an outstanding record for Corporate & Banking work is looking to appoint specialists in both these areas. Individuals who are seeking early recognition of their expertise and commitment.

INSOLVENCY

We are currently seeking Insolvency Lawyers at all levels of experience for several of our clients in both Leeds and Manchester. If you are an Insolvency Lawyer there has probably never been a better time to further your career.

For more details on these and other Leeds and Manchester appointments, please contact Denise Berry or Mark Swillie at Barclay House Appointments Ltd on 061-236 9229 between 8.30 am - 9.00 pm. All approaches are treated in the strictest confidence and C.V.'s are never sent out without prior consent.

ST ALBANS

LITIGATION LAWYER

Required by National Service Company specialising in Commercial Debt Recovery. Company Information & Formation. Good quality client portfolio. 3 years High Court Debt recovery & Insolvency experience preferred as is a commercial mind.

Excellent package and prospects available to right calibre applicant.

Written applications with full CV to be received by Wednesday June 5th 1991, marked Strictly Private and Confidential and addressed to:

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CITY INITIATIVE
27 Holywell Hill
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Tel: 0727 861134

DEBENHAM & CO

require experienced commercial property solicitor on a 6-12 month contract

Apply in writing to Richard Woof Debenham & Co 20 Hans Road Knightsbridge London SW3 1RT Tel - 071-581-2471

Chief Leisure Centres Officer

£35,000 - £41,000* + performance related bonus

Since October 1989 Wandsworth's Leisure Centres contract group has been at the forefront of value for money service delivery.

Consisting of four Leisure Centres with indoor pools, two Recreation Centres and two outdoor pools, the service provides a wide variety of wet and dry sports and leisure facilities. Due to the retirement of the present Chief Officer we now need a committed and experienced professional to manage our £1.4m p.a. contract and prepare for tendering in 1994.

You should therefore have extensive practical experience of budget, staff and facility management in the leisure industry, backed by a relevant professional qualification. Your ability and presentational skills should equip you to report to the highest levels of authority and your track record should display the business acumen necessary to further improve the contract group's performance.

If you are equal to this challenge, Wandsworth wants to hear from you.

* A starting salary of over £41,000 may be offered in particular circumstances.

For an informal discussion please contact Lance Garrett, Director of Leisure & Amenity Services on 081-871 6363.

Application forms from Leisure & Amenity Services Personnel Section, Town Hall, London SW18 2PU. Telephone 081-871 6360 during office hours or 081-871 7795 for our 24 hour answerphone service. Please quote Ref. L2107.

Closing date: 14th June 1991.

Wandsworth

The Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We welcome applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, disability or age. All applications are considered on the basis of their merits and abilities for the job.

THE BRITISH HOME & HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES (BHHI)

Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JB Registered Charity No. 206222

Applications are invited for the post of HOUSE GOVERNOR AND SECRETARY

The House Governor is assisted by the Finance Officer and a full team of administrative staff, and, together with the Maroon, is responsible to the Board for the day-to-day management of BHHI.

The post requires wide experience of financial and management practices, as well as some knowledge of fundraising and publicity activities. The ability to present BHHI's charitable needs to a wide variety of audiences is essential. Previous experience in hospital administration would be an advantage. The successful candidate must be at ease with chronically sick disabled people and relate to their special needs.

The salary is negotiable and there is both a contributory pension scheme and membership of a medical insurance scheme. The successful candidate will be expected to live within reasonable distance of BHHI.

Further information can be obtained from: The House Governor on telephone 081-670 8241 or fax 081-766 6084.

Closing date for application, with full CV, will be 14 June 1991.



COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Legal Adviser To £50,000 Commercial lawyer with personality sought to join small team in well-known Pte. At least 3 years' ppe required to undertake very broad spectrum of matters working closely with the management team. Attractive salary and prospects. Ref: 4251

Oil/Gas Lawyer To £36,000 Lawyer with some oil/gas experience sought to join international Pte. Excellent opportunities to participate in business. Second language an advantage. Ref: 4182

Commercial Lawyer To £35,000 Junior lawyer sought to join legal team of international corporation. UK up. "led with up to 3 years' commercial experience. Position offers excellent prospects. Ref: 4163

For further information please contact Danielle Ross (Solicitor) on 071-405 6062 (081-444 1293 evenings/weekends)

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Private Client To £55,000 Well-known City firm seeks a high calibre lawyer with between 3 and 5 years' experience to deal with a broad range of private client work. First class salary. Ref: 4201

Commercial Litigation To £50,000 Ambitious litigator with between 2 and 4 years' ppe required to undertake a diverse and challenging commercial litigation caseload. Highly competitive package. Ref: 4084

Company/Commercial To £40,000 Bright self-starter with around 2 years' ppe required by fast-growing commercial practice to handle a wide range of company/commercial matters. Excellent salary and prospects. Ref: 4310

For further information please contact Sallie Hawkins (Solicitor) on 071-405 6062 (081-540 9709 evenings/weekends)

or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

Nebiolo's sway may be good for Manchester

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ROME

Capriati has also grown up over the past year. The all-American smile comes as readily as ever, but not quite as convincingly. For a moment, against the Italian girl's persistent slow-balling tactics, Capriati lapsed into impatient confusion. Piccolini her hair

Take that: Agassi drives a solid backhand during his unconvincing first-round victory in Paris yesterday.

26, 51, 54.

MOMME: First round V Meriläinen (Ger) 1-C
Pomellé (Ger), 51, 54. A Huber (Ger) 2-L
Gammes (Fin), 51, 52. 5-C P Thoren (Fin) 2-L
Gammes (Fin), 51, 52. 5-C P Thoren (Fin), 51, 52.
N Houten (Fin), 51, 54. J Cantor (US) 1-B
Piccolini (Fin), 51, 52. 7-B; M Pearce (US) 1-B
C Dahlman (Swed), 7-3, 5-B; M Kidwood (Japan)
1-B S Schütz (Neth), 54, 54.

N Zverev: (USSR) 1-B Deiber (US), 54, 5-3.
C. Van Lath (US) 1-B Pampoulovas (Bul),
54, 54.

5-3: G. Smal (Ger) 1-B Malenkov (Bul),
5-3. S. Stenlund (Swe) 1-B
S. Caschi (Fin) 1-B C. Casco (Ger), 5-3, 5-3.
A. Temmerman (Brum) 1-B H. Mings (Japan),
5-3.

F. Blassing: (Fin) 1-B H. Hentzen (Fin), 5-3.
A. Kijmala (Japan) 1-B S. Stenlund (Swe),
5-3, 5-4. F. Label (Arg) 1-B S. Rother (Neth),
5-3, 5-4. J. W. W. (USSR) 1-B
5-4, 5-4. 7-1; W. Wright (US) 1-B de Lac
US), 5-1, 7-4. C. Cunningham (US)
Marin (US), 5-2, 5-1. M. Fernandez (US)

That is out of the question; but the IOC executive board, acknowledging the role of both international federations and national Olympic committees, is expected to make provision, at the vote in Monte Carlo in 1993 on the host for 2,000, for international presidents of both summer and winter sports, and for representatives of the five continental federations of national Olympic committees, to have a vote. If

FOOTBALL

Oblivion for the Oberliga

[illegible]

Results and tables, page 35

price, if Gascoigne is fit in a car's time, only £4.5 million. A world record fee of £8.5 million was the original reported sum as Lazio were prepared to pay for Gascoigne's skills.

That changed quickly when he injured himself badly in the

Bucharest, 40; 3, Dinamo Bucharest, 35;
SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Zaragoza, 2; Real
Mallorca, 2; Cadix, 2; Sevilla, 1; Real Sociedad,
1; Castellón, 1; Logroñés, 0; Barcelona, 2; Real
Oviedo, 2; Athletic Madrid, 0; Real Madrid, 2;
Sporting Gijón, 1; Getafe, 0; Chelsea, 1;
Valencia, 2; Athletic Bilbao, 1; Real Betis, 2;
Tenerife, 1; Real Valladolid, 1; Real Burgos, 0.
Leading positions (after 36 matches): 1,

II 0898 500 123
 Results
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According to reports yesterday, the initial down-payment may be between £500,000 and £1 million - and the overall price, if Gascoigne is fit in a year's time, of £4.5 million. A transfer record fee of £2.5 million was the original reported sum. The reports were prepared to pay Gascoigne's skills.

That changed quickly when

[illegible]

RACING
Live commentary
0898 500 123
Results
0898 100 123

Marling to earn Royal Ascot tilt

WITH Royal Ascot on the horizon, it will be interesting to watch the sprint for the Charles Heston National Stakes at Sandown Park this evening because two of the runners, Castle Cloud and Marling, are types likely to be in contention for major honours during the four-day extravaganza.

Being by Lomond out of the extremely fast mare Marwell, Marling has a pedigree that would not look out of place in the winner's enclosure after the Queen Mary Stakes.

Word that she had inherited plenty of speed from her dam preceded her to Newmarket where she started favourite to make a winning debut.

In spite of missing the break, she never looked like letting her supporters down and I was impressed by the way that she seemed to find a second gear to go clear of Twaitef racing up the hill out of the dip.

While Twaitef did not win next time out at York, she did not let the form down when running Poolesta to a head since they were six lengths apart of the remainder.

Castle Cloud, who was bought to replace his owner's other fast horse Dancing Music, was quick to find his own stride when he made a winning debut at Hamilton Park by four lengths. Then it was on to Ascot where he did even better to account for the well-fancied Ice Knight by a length and a half to land the Garter Stakes.

That performance suggested that Castle Cloud will be a tough nut to crack this evening without being quite good enough to give 5lb away to Marling.

Instead of running his unbeaten filly Central City, Richard Hannon will rely upon Fair Crack, who beat Ice Knight by half a length at Newbury.

MANDARIN
MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Lady Of Mann, the other winner in the field, only had a neck to spare when making her successful debut on the all-weather track at Southwell ten days ago.

Bold Russian, my selection for the Brigadier Gerard Stakes, had an admirable record over seven furlongs and a mile last season. He was also far from disgraced in the race won by In The Groove first time out this spring.

Since he is by Persian Bold, whose stock got further than he did, out of a mare by Nijinsky, today's longer trip should be within his compass.

His trainer Barry Hills will also be saddling Sure Sharp, who has not raced since contesting last year's 2,000 Guineas. But with Steve Causton on his owner Sheikh

Muhammed's other runner, Stagecraft, it would probably be as well to watch rather than back Sure Sharp this time.

Stapleford Manor, who was runner-up to Noble Patriarch over today's course and distance last month, and Power Take Off are the others who ought to be concerned at the finish.

Before riding at Sandown several jockeys will have been in action elsewhere during the afternoon, most notably Michael Roberts and Pat Eddery.

At Leicester, I give Roberts an excellent chance of landing a double for Alec Stewart on Aryll (3.45) and Too Conspicuous (4.15).

Aryll is napped to win the Tote Filling Stakes over the same course and distance that saw her win the second of her two races last year. When she made her seasonal debut at Newmarket on 2,000 Guineas day she ran well to finish third

behind Takaddum, a winner since.

Her stable companion Too Conspicuous also ran well enough first time out at Newmarket, in the race won by Prince Of The Sea, to suggest that the Tote Placepot Graduation Stakes should be his for the taking.

At Redcar, I like the look of Eddery's chance of winning the Kirkcaldy Maiden Stakes on Ajad, who has beaten only a neck by Cardinal Point at York.

Should the promising filly Oh Mercy fail to cope with Ajad here, consolation for her trainer Henry Cecil and jockey Wylan Ryan can come swiftly in the form of Wave Hill winning the following race, the E. B. P. Stakes.

The Tote Filling Stakes, following his promising Lingfield debut.

Blinkered first time

SANDOWN PARK: 2.25 Omelette, 2.40 Omelette, 2.55 Omelette, 3.10 Omelette, 3.25 Omelette, 3.40 Omelette, 3.55 Omelette, 4.10 Omelette, 4.25 Omelette, 4.40 Omelette, 4.55 Omelette, 5.10 Omelette, 5.25 Omelette, 5.40 Omelette, 5.55 Omelette, 6.10 Omelette, 6.25 Omelette, 6.40 Omelette, 6.55 Omelette, 7.10 Omelette, 7.25 Omelette, 7.40 Omelette, 7.55 Omelette, 8.10 Omelette, 8.25 Omelette, 8.40 Omelette, 8.55 Omelette, 9.10 Omelette, 9.25 Omelette, 9.40 Omelette, 9.55 Omelette, 10.10 Omelette, 10.25 Omelette, 10.40 Omelette, 10.55 Omelette, 11.10 Omelette, 11.25 Omelette, 11.40 Omelette, 11.55 Omelette, 12.10 Omelette, 12.25 Omelette, 12.40 Omelette, 12.55 Omelette, 1.00 Omelette, 1.15 Omelette, 1.30 Omelette, 1.45 Omelette, 1.60 Omelette, 1.75 Omelette, 1.90 Omelette, 2.05 Omelette, 2.20 Omelette, 2.35 Omelette, 2.50 Omelette, 2.65 Omelette, 2.80 Omelette, 2.95 Omelette, 3.10 Omelette, 3.25 Omelette, 3.40 Omelette, 3.55 Omelette, 4.10 Omelette, 4.25 Omelette, 4.40 Omelette, 4.55 Omelette, 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Gatting sweeps all before him as Middlesex prosper

By JOHN WOODCOCK

TAUNTON (second day of three): Somerset, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 172 runs to avoid an innings defeat

BLESSED indeed is the batsman who gets his eye in on a pleasant bank holiday at Taunton. Yesterday it was Mike Gatting's turn to do so, his innings of 180 taking Middlesex to a first-innings lead of 203. In the last 25 minutes Somerset knocked 31 off their deficit without loss.

Any morning freshness there may have been in the pitch was soon gone. For a while the occasional ball swung, but when it did so it was usually pitched too wide for the batsman to be committed; and some time passed before the spinners began to pose a problem or two.

It is because the ball will turn that Middlesex batted instead of declaring. It will be interesting today to see how Embury and Tufnell meet the challenge.

As soon as they saw Gatting's look of determination, Somerset must have feared the worst. With Middlesex last but one in the championship he was not going to get himself out, as he tends to do. For the third

wicket he and Brown added 131, and for the fourth he put on 162 with Keech, who was playing only his second championship innings. Gatting's first fifty took 113 balls, his second 78, and his third 39. Keech, too, is built on the lines of a pocket batsman, and it says a lot for him that at times he and his captain were easily mistaken.

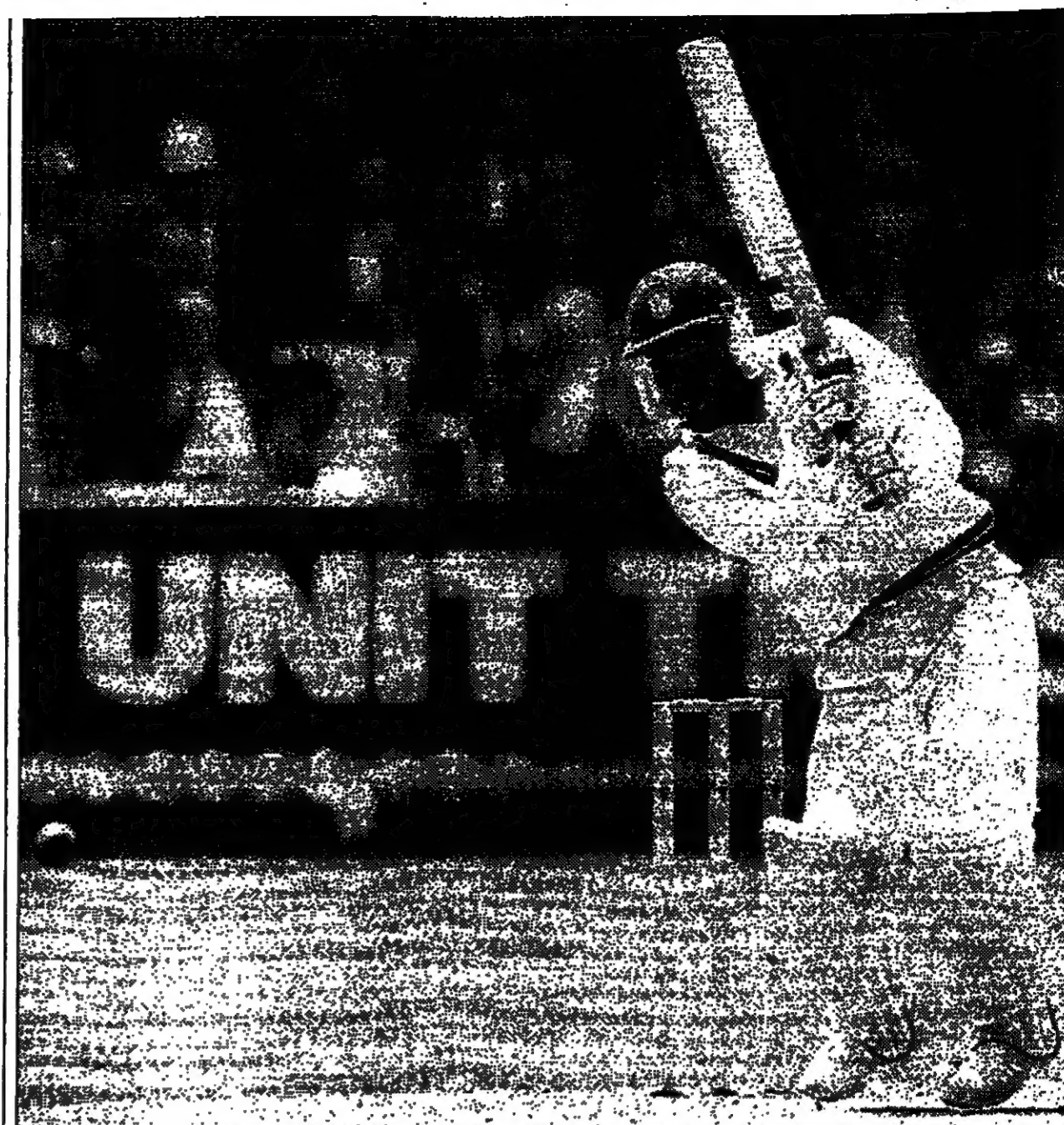
Keech was run out immediately after reaching 50 by driving Graveney over the sightscreen. It happened in a way that is often tried but practically never succeeds. Keech, the non-striker, was answering Gatting's call for a quick single, and Roebuck, the bowler, kicked the ball into the stumps from three or four yards away with Keech still short of his ground.

In Roebuck's next over Gatting was leg-before, trying to sweep. He had batted for five hours and hit 27 fours, perhaps ten of them with the stroke that got him out. Among English batsmen playing today Gatting has the highest first-class average (a shade over 48), and he looks fit enough both to push it into the 50s and add to his 68 Test caps — when he comes out of quarantine. Yesterday was his sixtieth first-class hundred,

and a wonderfully good one. Another Middlesex captain, though of a rather different kind, Sir Pelham Warner, finished his career with 60.

With nothing to lose by taking chances, Middlesex did that for the next 90 minutes. Their three West Indian-born players — Williams, Elcock and Cowans — were more successful at it than their three remaining Englishmen, Embury, Farbrace and Tufnell, Williams and Cowans marking the eventual return of the quicker bowlers by hitting Macleay for two or three very rude blows indeed. Off the last of them, as high a hit as I ever saw, Cowans was caught at long-on by Rose, who had been prevented from bowling by a back stave.

Born in Wiltshire, Ken Macleay is a West Australian in every other way. He has a nice economical action, not unlike Terry Alderman's, and a year or two ago would have been well-suited to English pitches and the English ball with its exaggerated seam. Now, though, he may well find wickets hard enough to come by to have some difficulty reconciling the standard of batsmanship in county cricket with England's shortage of runs in Australia last winter.



Forcing shot: Gas Logie, the top scorer for West Indies, forces the ball through the offside during his innings of 82 at Lord's yesterday. Match report on page 36.

Northants refuse to take risks

By JACK BAILEY

HEADINGLEY (second day of three): Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, lead Northamptonshire by 69 runs

IT WAS a low day at Headingley. Dour cloud cover and fine rain caused the loss of thirty overs and kept away the Yorkshire faithful. They knew a thing or two, for there was no Bank Holiday roistering here. Instead, Northamptonshire's batting was in keeping with the sombre background and a slow pitch which left them mistaking the possibility of a run chase on the third day. Survival was the name of the game.

They finally declared, 66 runs

behind Yorkshire, who were left with five minutes batting, seen out successfully by Moxon and Maffei. Given some decent weather, we may be in for some thrills and spills, but yesterday provided precious few. Only Capel and Bailey passed 50 and the ball dominated throughout.

Bailey's half century took 165 minutes. Capel, his partner in a stand of 95, played with a freedom unmatched all day during a two-hour stay which brought him an undesired 69.

With 68 scored at two runs per over, Fordham was first to go, being out to short extra, and Moxon himself took a wicket with his first ball, Felton bolting out in desperation. Thereafter the spinners kept Northamptonshire in chains.

Joy for amateurs

Leigh East, the amateur rugby league side, beat Egham 42-4 to take the British Coal Openwater National League title. In depriving their local rivals, Leigh Miners, of the first division championship in their last game of the season, Leigh East also booked a place in next season's Regal Trophy alongside the professionals.

Fast men restore table lead

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

WARWICKSHIRE returned to the top of the Britannia Assurance county championship table by gaining a two-day win over Gloucestershire at Edgbaston where only Bill Athey proved capable of handling the home fast bowlers. They shared 18 wickets on a day when seven batsmen failed to score and both Scott and Hardy completed "pairs".

Paul Smith forced Gloucestershire to follow on 184 behind with a career-best five for 28 and then set the second innings slide in motion. Allan Donald wrecked the middle order by bowling very fast and very straight before Athey restored some pride with a fine century against the odds. Mike Smith staying while 104 were added for the ninth wicket. But Warwickshire needed only 17 to win.

Elsewhere the batsmen survived. The Kent first-wicket record of 283, which had stood since 1938, was surpassed at Canterbury where Mark Benson, with 160, and Neil Taylor put on 300 against Derbyshire. This torrent of runs followed a morning session in which Derbyshire had lost their last six wickets for 51 in 17 overs to Merrick and Davis. Kent, 326 for one in their second innings, saw Taylor 144 not out, lead by 330.

Yet another century opening partnership between Butcher and Morris laid the foundations for Glamorgan's 395 for four against Sussex. Morris, despite a bruised foot, made an unbeaten 156 while Maynard played some thrilling strokes in his 127 as 202 were added for the third wicket.

There was an astonishing morning in the Parks where Worcestershire scored 239 runs in the two hours, 157 of them coming from Damien D'Oliveira whose innings of 237, made from 219 balls with seven sixes and 31 fours, beat by ten runs his father's highest first-class score.

Britannia Assurance county championship

Warwick v Gloucestershire

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (40) beat Gloucestershire (4) by 10 wickets.

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GLoucestershire First Innings 184

Second Innings

Nottinghamshire can beat neighbours again

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (second day of three): Leicestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are two runs behind Nottinghamshire

NEIGHBOURS they may be, but Nottinghamshire are proving to be Leicestershire's sternest opponents. Already they have beaten them twice this month and, given a modicum of luck this morning, should do so again. Tim Robinson's first championship century of the season, and a return of five wickets by Andy Pick have given them the advantage.

In the opinion of Bobby Simpson, Leicestershire's coach, this is not a good pitch. As this was said on Saturday, before his side were in some difficulty, the charge of being a bad loser cannot be levelled against him now. A total of 300 would win the match, he reckoned.

This is the second time these two sides have met in the championship this season, which is extraordinary considering it is only the fourth match for both. Certainly the public are not enamoured. The attendance for Bank Holiday Monday was pathetic.

LEICESTERSHIRE First Innings 277 (M. D. Mason 100)

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE First Innings 277 (M. D. Mason 100)

Second Innings

Earlier this month Nottinghamshire, won by seven wickets and, given a fourth day, would most likely do so again. Here, they finish today. There is a one day and another bump at the other, so another victory is certainly not out of the question.

Resuming on 257 for seven, Leicestershire lost their last three first innings wickets for 13 runs. All three went to Pick, who looks now to be the bowler Clive Rice reckoned he would be, and a final bonus point was not. In other words, there was at least one bad ball, sometimes two, each over, and most went

to the boundary. Broad had struck nine fours in a half-century from 66 balls when, in pulling a long hop from Maguire, he picked out Leicestershire's captain and best fielder at mid-wicket. Even on this pitch, Johnson and Randall likewise found it all too easy. Randall's timing was a delight and completely disguised his middle age. There were three successive fours off Tennant when he appeared nearly to lean on the ball. The sweet spot of his bat lived up to its description.

Yet both were more easily sent with runs than Robinson, who was still clinically square-cutting when he reached his century off 220 balls having hit 12 fours. By then, Saxelby had swept and driven his way to 44, and a final bonus point was in the offing.

THE West Indies opening batsman, Gordon Greenidge, is to have an exploratory operation on his injured left knee. Greenidge, aged 40, went to see a specialist at Barnes General Hospital yesterday amid fears that he may have cartilage trouble. Greenidge injured the knee fielding on Saturday.

Yorks v Northants

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 89 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

YORKSHIRE First Innings 277 (M. D. Mason 100)

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE First Innings 277 (M. D. Mason 100)

Second Innings

Waqar draws on stamina to effect

By RICHARD STREETON

BOURNEMOUTH (second day of three): Hampshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 139 runs ahead of Surrey

HOSTILE fast bowling from Waqar Younis, the Pakistan Test player, brought him a further three wickets yesterday when Hampshire started their second innings 46 runs ahead with 45 overs left. It brought Waqar's number of victims to nine in this game and 20 in two matches. Waqar showed remarkable stamina in two spells as he completed 14 overs and took three for 24.

Initially he had trouble with footholds and he did not break through until he changed ends. Terry shared a first-wicket stand of 56 before he chased a wicket ball and was caught behind. Nicholas was leg-before to a slower ball and Chris Smith, who had grabbed solidly for 42 overs, unexpectedly went the same way as Terry.

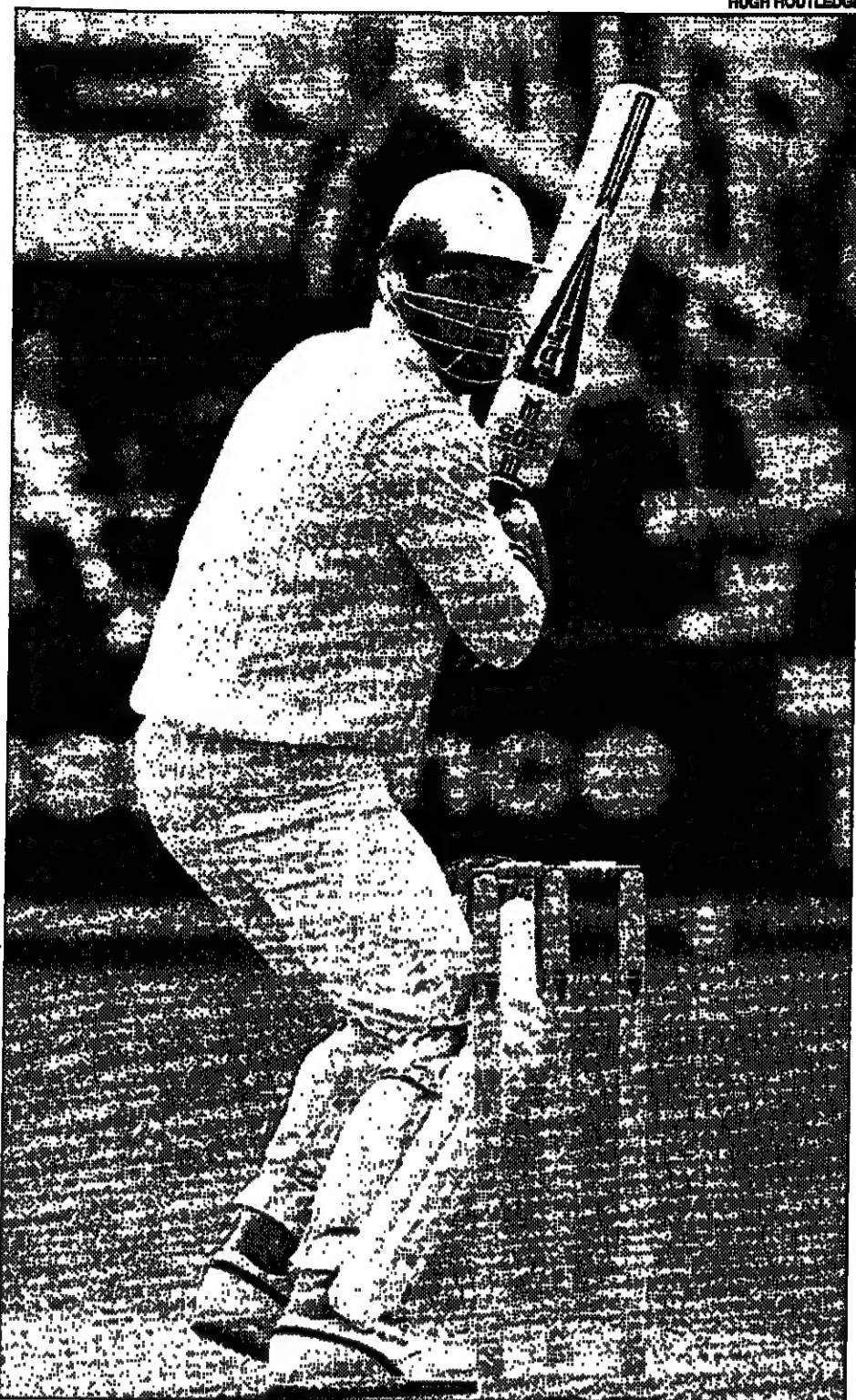
Surrey earlier batted with little conviction as the pattern of what had been a surprisingly low-scoring match continued. Hampshire, though their over rate barely reached 16 an hour, bowled with far more purpose than at Swindon on Sunday.

Connor found his form for the first time this year and finished with four for 49. The pitch lacked pace, though, and Hampshire's attack never dominated to an extent that justified several rather tame dismissals among the top-order Surrey batsmen.

Medley was an exception and all his determination came through as he made a creditable

West Indies suffer in the field as an impressive Hick joins in record one-day international partnership

Fairbrother leads England to clean sweep



Edgy moment: Hick turns to follow a shot off the inside edge as it flies to fine leg

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (England won the toss): England beat West Indies by seven wickets

IF THEY achieve nothing else this summer, England have restored their standing as efficient, even impressive one-day cricketers. Just as in 1988, they completed a whitewash of the Texaco Trophy games yesterday, swept to victory with seven wickets and 8.5 overs in hand.

The target of 265 was mocked by a stand of 213 between Graeme Hick, just starting out on his England career, and Neil Fairbrother, who may have rescued his stand was a record for any wicket in one-day internationals in this country: Fairbrother's exciting 113 was his highest score for England; Hick's unbeaten 86 was massively significant for the more serious battles to come.

With the sun shining on a full house of 28,500 and flags fluttering above the new Compton and Edrich stands, Lord's can seldom have looked better. The match may have been academic within the Texaco Trophy, but that

mattered not a jot to anyone present; as so often on this ground, the occasion spoke for itself.

For the first time in four years, West Indies were without both Greenidge and Haynes and it may even be the passing of an era, for if Haynes is recovering steadily from his back complaint, Greenidge's immediate future is clouded by the injury to his left knee. He will have an exploratory operation today, after which a decision will be taken on whether an additional player must be summoned.

The emergency opening pairing of Simmons and Dujon is unlikely to threaten the old guard. Gifted strokeplayer that he is, Dujon does not inspire against the new ball. His feet scarcely moved to his first delivery from Lawrence, a quick, swinging yorker which hit off-stump, to the graphic euphoria of England's latest comeback man.

Lawrence is essentially not a limited-overs bowler. He is an aggressor who will never be content to contain and, though his control has improved, he could not be accused of boring a batsman

out. England presumably chose him as recognition of his form and enthusiasm and with one eye on the Tests to come, but here, predictably, he was expensive.

Simmons perished to a fine catch by Russell off the inside edge, his third failure of the week and further reward for the new consistency of DeFreitas, at long last beginning to look the finished article as a seam bowler.

Gooch may have given Lawrence two overs too many before turning to Illingworth. Richardson, never so fluent against spin, took the bait and swung him to deep mid-wicket. Illingworth then cleverly held one back, defeating Lara in the fight and comfortably taking the checked drive.

Richards and Logie were left to regroup and, either side of lunch, they did it diligently. They had added 73 in 16 overs when Richards miscued a pull against DeFreitas, instant relief for an England team which had begun to fear a target in excess of 300.

At the 45-overs mark, that possibility remained but, from 219 for five, the decline was swift. West Indies managed only 45 from the final ten

overs, due in part to an improved second spell by Lawrence, which brought him three for 17 and would have been still more impressive but for a rare miss by Russell when Logie was on 80. The little man added only two more before Gooch claimed an important wicket for the third consecutive game.

Convincing victory seemed an unlikely scenario when both Gooch and Atherton were out inside 15 overs. In the absence of Lamb and Botham, much appeared to depend on the opening pair, but Gooch was run out by Hooper attempting an ambitious single and Atherton, looking good yet again, was caught down the legside off the probing Marshall, whose first five overs conceded only seven runs.

Hick received the welcome to which he is becoming accustomed, with precious few balls pitching in his half. He still looks less than convincing when the ball is lifting at his body, which is why the West Indies persist with the tactic, but he saw it through unflinchingly while, at the other end, Fairbrother led an eccentric existence.

He might have run himself out first ball, he was missed at slip when 13 and then picked up five runs for another near run-out. There was much playing-and-missing and numerous uncontrolled pulls. But this is the player he is, a man who loves to hit the ball and, if he survives, will dominate any attack.

He did so now, looking ever better as the West Indies lost heart and control after tea. By the end, no one could bowl at him and even the return of Patterson, running in from the pavilion end in gathering gloom, was greeted by a pull for six before, in trying for a repeat, he skied a simple catch to Richards at extra cover.

His century, made from 103 balls, was the first by an England player in a home international against the West Indies. Of greater long-term consequence, however, is the fact that Hick, by the end, was looking the class act he is expected, if not commanded, to be.

Whether he was cutting delicately against Hooper, driving against Marshall or whipping the pace bowlers off his legs, he was in imperious control. For him, the ordeal of the opening act may be over. For England, the summer's first act has been a triumph; it is, however, a long and complex play.

Following their whitewash of the West Indies in the Texaco Trophy, England's Test match series odds have been cut from 6-1 to 9-2 by the bookmakers, William Hill, who make the West Indies 4-9 favourites, with a drawn series 3-1.

Leading article, page 13

Boxers will visit

Two South African boxers are to compete in British rings next month. The former South African lightweight champion, Abram Gurnee, is to take on Britain's prospect of the year, the former Olympic Games boxer, Alan Hall, on June 11. The unbeaten Gary Ballard, the light heavyweight champion from Natal Province, will take on John Foreman.

Pipe's dream season

MARTIN Pipe, the Somerset racehorse trainer, yesterday added a further record to his remarkable career when he bettered his own record of winners trained in a National Hunt season.

Pipe, who holds the record of 224 winners trained in a season, also achieved a personal best when he gained a further five victories. With the season coming to a close on Saturday, Pipe will continue to send out runners up until the final day.

Myfor gained the record-breaking win in the Marnhead

Novices' Claiming Hurdle at Devon. The 7-4 on favourite was always travelling well for Martin Foster.

Peter Scudamore, who rode Pipe's two winners at Hereford yesterday, will finish the season as the champion rider for the sixth time.

The high points of the season for Pipe were gained when he was leading trainer at both the Aintree and Cheltenham festivals, Omerta winning the Irish Grand National.

Masterkey operation, page 32

Ballesteros survives test of nerve

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SEVERIANO Ballesteros yesterday won an extraordinary battle with himself to overcome Colin Montgomerie in a play-off for the Volvo PGA championship on the West course at Wentworth.

The Spaniard appeared to have plucked defeat from the jaws of victory when he forfeited the advantage by playing both the 16th and 17th holes like a novice to leave himself needing a birdie at the last to tie. Yet he summoned the strength of character to hole a teasing downhill putt of seven feet on the 18th green to stay alive and moved on to win the first prize of £83,330 at the first extra hole.

There, Ballesteros struck a magnificent five-iron shot from 220 yards and as the ball hurtled towards the first green the pressure he was feeling was both visible and audible. "Be right," Ballesteros, tension etched all over his face, said. "Please be right."

Ballesteros's call was obeyed because the ball rolled to within three feet of the hole from where he coaxed the putt in after Montgomerie had made a four with a chip from the right which came within four inches of topping into the hole.

"I felt under tremendous pressure," Ballesteros said. "If I had lost in that situation then I know some people might have thought that they had seen the best of Seve."

"If I had missed the putt at the 18th then I think it could have damaged my confidence. The tournament was very much in my hands. I must thank the people who supported me. They are the reason why I have won three Opens as well as six tournaments at Wentworth."

Even so the thousands of spectators who eventually spilled onto the fairways could easily have left the course questioning Ballesteros's future had he not holed at the last for a 70 to tie with Montgomerie (67) with an aggregate of 271, 17 under par. The three putts Ballesteros took at the fourth to miss a

clear birdie opportunity provided the first tangible sign that there could be a chink in his armour for Bernard Langer, Nick Faldo and the other challengers to exploit.

Langer, however, seemed to sense it was not to be his day when at the sixth he hit his second through the green, gently dropped his club to the ground and slapped himself on the thigh. Faldo, too, failed to find the momentum he required.

Eamonn Darcy, however, did make a move as with four birdies in succession from the 11th, he swept up the leader board. However, the genial Irishman lost his chance when he put his approach into a bunker at the 16th.

Darcy discussed his round of 67 as the Spaniard, playing as deliberately as I have seen him, holed across the green at the 15th for a birdie which seemed likely to settle the issue.

But on the next tee he seemed to be overtaken by the fear of losing. In a sense it was understandable. Earlier this month he ended more than one year without a win by holing a 25 foot putt on the last green in Japan. But only two weeks ago he lost a play-off for the Spanish Open to Eduardo Romero after being three shots ahead in the last round.

Negative thoughts undoubtedly led to a succession of indifferent shots, including the weakest one-iron I have seen him hit, at the 17th. When he faced a third shot of 240 yards he backed away from the ball and shared his feelings with members of the gallery. "I know you're nervous, I'm nervous too," he said.

That Ballesteros eventually came through is not only good for him but also for European golf. He has won £124,217 now this season so he is on the way to claiming an automatic place in the Ryder Cup team.

Montgomerie, who won £55,550 to increase his earnings to £89,519, is very much a candidate, too. He deserves enormous credit for the manner in which he stuck to his guns. He followed birdies at the 11th and 12th with two more at the 17th and 18th to complete a wonderful 67.

In the end he was compelled to bow to Ballesteros's brave finish but he can draw tremendous confidence from his own effort.



Victory punch: Ballesteros celebrates his last and winning putt at Wentworth

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	471	4	10	196	3
2	152	3	11	378	4
3	452	4	12	468	4
4	501	5	13	441	4
5	181	3	14	179	3
6	344	4	15	486	4
7	389	4	16	380	4
8	389	4	17	671	5
9	450	4	18	502	5
Total yardage: 5,945					
Par: 72					

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Francis likely to return

By DENNIS SIGNY
AND CHRIS MOORE

GERRY Francis is expected to be confirmed as the successor to Don Howe as manager of Queen's Park Rangers to-day. The former England football captain, who left Bristol Rovers at the end of his contract earlier this month, will be returning to the club where he started his career as a midfielder player.

Rangers terminated Howe's contract last week, saying the directors felt that the time was right to appoint a younger man to lead them into the mid-1990s. Francis, aged 39 and having served a successful managerial apprenticeship, fits that bill.

His decision to choose Rangers leaves Chelsea still without a manager. Francis was recommended by Bobby Campbell, who resigned to become personal assistant to Ken Bates. The Chelsea chairman has had talks with Francis in the past fortnight about the position. There has been speculation that David Webb, the Southend United manager and former Chelsea player, and Neil Warnock, the manager of Notts County, who has led his side to the second-division play-off final, might switch to Chelsea but, with Bates in the United States this week, no immediate decision is expected.

The future of Josef Venglos as manager of Aston Villa will be decided at a meeting between the former Czechoslovakia national coach and Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, this morning. Venglos arrived back in Birmingham last night after staying on an extra four days in Malaysia following Villa's end-of-season tour.

Prior to leaving he admitted he would be considering his future after a disappointing initial season as the first foreign manager in the first division.

In contrast to the previous season, when they finished runners-up to Liverpool under Graham Taylor, Villa won only nine of their 38 League games last season, narrowly avoiding relegation.

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